Administration Report of the
Central Provinces

1902-03 to 1909-10

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ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES

FOR THE YEAR

1902-1903

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ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES

FOR

THE YEAR 1902-03.

PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Introductory.

1. This report has been prepared by Mr. C. A. CLARKE, I.C.S., who has been placed on special duty for the purpose.

Changes in the Administration.

2. The office of the Honourable the Chief Commissioner was transferred on the 16th September 1902 from Mr. (now Sir) A. H. L. FRASER, C.S.I., to the Honourable Mr. J. P. HEWETT, C.S.I., C.I.E., who held charge of the Province for the rest of the year.

General features.

3. The Central Provinces are almost wholly agricultural, no less than 70 per cent. of the population being engaged in the tillage of the soil, whilst the occupations of a considerable portion of the remainder are really dependent on agriculture. In last year's report the hope was expressed that the Province was well on its way towards recovery from the depression caused by the recent cycle of bad years. These expectations have not been disappointed in spite of the fact that the agricultural history of the year has been one of remarkable diversity, varying from a severe failure in some tracts to one of the best years on record in others. The monsoon started late and was in considerable defect in most districts, but in the northern and central portions of the Province the falls were so well distributed that nearly all crops did well. In the south on the other hand the light rainfall prevented the transplanting of rice, whilst the failure of the late monsoon not only ruined the crop, but left much land too dry for rabi sowings. While therefore the northern districts, including the Nerbudda Valley and the Satpura Plateau, and the cotton-juar tracts of the south-west have enjoyed one of the most prosperous years on record, the rice country of the Wainganga Valley and Chhattisgarh has been unable to escape famine. State relief works had eventually to be opened in Raipur, while the situation was met in Bilaspur, Bhandara and Balaghat by grant-in-aid works. The people, however, showed more staying power than had been generally anticipated in the face of a considerable failure following so close after the great famine of 1899-1900, and aided by liberal remissions of rents and revenue and the generally low level of prices, they were able to do without much assistance in all districts except Raipur. Over the rest of the Province, however, cultivation and trade have expanded, the value of land and the wages of labour have risen, and agricultural credit stands higher

now than it has done for some time. The long-suffering rice tracts of the Wainganga Valley, Raipur and Bilaspur, are thus the weak spots in the agriculture of the Province, but at the time of writing they are at length reaping excellent harvests, and over the whole Province prosperity seems now more assured than it has been for many years.

Relations with Feudatory States.

4. The year was marked by two important changes in the administration of the Feudatory States. The Raja of Sonpur, a wise and sympathetic ruler, died and was succeeded by his eldest son, and in Sakti it was found necessary to check mis-government by placing the administration under the guidance of a Diwan selected by the Chief Commissioner. The harvests of the year compared very favourably with those of the neighbouring khalsa districts, and with cultivation and trade both steadily expanding little difficulty was experienced in collecting the land revenue. Settlement work has been pushed on vigorously, and the revised assessments, which have recently been introduced into several States, are working very successfully. The year was healthy throughout, and the price of food-grains easy, so that it is not surprising that there was but little crime. While the fortunes of the people were thus mending, the financial position of all States began naturally to show marked improvement, and with a timely exercise of economy on public works, adverse balances, where existing, were so far reduced that only four estates now remain in debt. Cordial relations continue to be maintained between the Feudatory Chiefs and the Officers of Government.

The condition of the people.

5. The past year has witnessed progressive improvement in the material condition of the people. Even in the distressed rice districts of the south the people for the most part showed wonderful power of resistance, and the small amount of relief that was required gives reason to hope that their progress towards recovery has only been arrested temporarily. Elsewhere good harvests and thriving trade brought employment and wealth to all classes, and the great improvement in physical condition is marked by an abnormally high birth-rate accompanied by a very low ratio of deaths. Evidence of the growing prosperity also appears in the largely increased consumption of cloth, fuel, country liquor and opium, and in the very noticeable lull in crime.

Realisation of revenue.

6. The rainfall of 1901 was short and for the most part unevenly distributed all over the Province, and in the result the kharif harvests were generally below normal, although in some districts not largely so. The northern and plateau districts were fortunate enough to reap average rabi harvests, but the south did not fare so well. In consequence it became necessary out of the current demand to suspend $\frac{1}{2}$ lakh in Jubbulpore and to remit rather over $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs in the Raipur, Saugor, Hoshangabad, Balaghat, Betul and Seoni Districts. The balance of the net current demand was collected in full without the exercise of undue coercion any where. Such pressure as was found necessary was only employed in order to mark the stage at which the limit of concessions had been reached. The arrear accounts had been so far reduced in consequence of the very liberal remissions of famine arrears granted under the orders of the Government of India that at the close of the year the provincial outstandings of revenue amounted to no more than $4\frac{1}{7}$ lakhs.

Surveys.

7. The traverse survey of 629 square miles and supplementary topographical survey of 2,347 square miles were completed by the Imperial Survey Department. Provincial parties also extended the cadastral survey over 366 square miles, and the cadastral survey of the whole Province is now complete.

Settlements.

8. Regular settlement operations were in progress in the districts of Sambalpur, Chanda and part of Raipur, and the correction of the village maps was begun and finished in Mandla Tahsil. Owing to repeated crop failures settlement operations had previously been discontinued over the greater part of Raipur, and the only work completed during the year in this district was the short-term settlement of a portion of the Dhamtari Tahsil in the khalsa, and the final assessments of the zamindaris. The whole of the field work in the khalsa of Sambalpur has now been completed. Proceedings for the abatement of land revenue in 966 deteriorated villages in the Betul, Bhandara and Balaghat Districts, which had been in progress at the beginning of the year, were brought to a successful termination before its close.

Land Records.

9. With the object of improving the Land Record work of Chhattisgarh, which has hitherto been inefficient, the Land Record staff in Bilaspur was completely revised and strengthened. The measures of reform include reduction in the size of charges and improvement of the pay and prospects of the staff. Similar proposals for Raipur have been approved since the close of the year. The year has also been marked by various important changes in the system of Land Records. In addition to their ordinary duties, the whole staff had much extra work to do in the preparation of schemes for suspension, remission and abatement of the land revenue demand. They have also given considerable assistance in demonstrating practical improvements in agriculture and in the teaching of agricultural subjects in the village schools.

Waste Lands.

10. A further area of 123,934 acres of waste land was excised from the Government forests and thrown open to cultivation under the ryotwari tenure. The area actually allotted to ryots during the year was 36,650 acres, and the total area now occupied in these ryotwari tracts amounts to 529,000 acres with a revenue of Rs. 2,18,000, whilst an area of 379,000 acres with an assessment of Rs. 1,13,000 is still available for allotment. The regular revision of the assessment of ryotwari waste tracts is in progress in the Chanda and Nimar Districts.

Estates under Court of Wards.

11. The policy, initiated after the last famine, of relieving the Court of Wards of all hopelessly encumbered estates was successfully continued, so that the number of estates under management further declined from 140 to 122. Rental collections, though not altogether unsatisfactory, left room for improvement, which may be expected this year to follow from the increased attention everywhere paid to the rental accounts. The total income remained steady at $13\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, but, largely owing to the reorganisation of establishments on a more economical basis, expenditure fell from $11\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs to $10\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs. A sum of Rs. 1,18,000 thus became available for the reduction of debt, while in Chhattisgarh nearly a lakh was spent on works of public utility. Little, however, in the way of improvement could be attempted over the rest of the Province, as some time must elapse before the treasuries, so completely emptied by the last famine, can be refilled.

The Revenue and Rent-paying classes.

12. Over the greater part of the Province the agricultural classes have been more fortunate than for years past, and even in the distressed south they have shown far more recuperative vigour than might have been expected. The area occupied for cultivation is the largest ever recorded, cotton and juar cropping has increased enormously, and although the area under the important rabi staples, wheat, gram, and linseed, declined, the decrease was more than

counterbalanced by the excellence of the yields. The numbers of live-stock in the Province rose greatly, and plough-cattle increased even in Chhattisgarh. Both landlords and tenants were well able to discharge their obligations to Government and to each other, and with seed cheaply obtainable they were not obliged to apply either to Government or to the money-lenders for assistance in sowing their land. It is also satisfactory to find that both sales and mortgages of proprietary rights in land show a fair decrease, and that transfers, especially private ones, were, as a rule, in favour of agriculturists. On the whole the tenants seem to have made better progress than the landlords, and at the same time to have improved their position as against the latter class, and to show a greater readiness to avail themselves of the protection which the law affords them.

Police.

13. As a consequence of the growing prosperity of all classes and the universally low level of prices, crime of all kinds diminished in 1902, and the record of offences is one of the lowest of recent years. The number of murders was very small, and the few dacoities which occurred were confined entirely to the districts of the northern and western border. The preventive action of the police generally improved, and remarkable success attended the special measures concerted to deal with the professional and organized bands of dacoits of several of the border districts, which, it appears, are exploited year after year by gangs of criminals who have their head-quarters in the adjoining Native States. It is satisfactory to find that the lesser pre-occupation of the police with ordinary crime led to unusual activity in the prosecution of Arms Act and Excise cases, and that the revised orders as to non-investigation of petty offences, which were in operation throughout the year, have not so far interfered with the well-established custom of prompt reporting. The numbers of the force increased in consequence of the taking over of police arrangements in the Chanda and Chhindwara Zamindaris. Recruitment under existing conditions is becoming increasingly difficult, but it is hoped that it may soon be possible to offer greater inducements to attract suitable men to the service.

Criminal Justice

14. The number of cases brought before the Criminal Courts was the lowest of the two decades, and the slighter nature of the offences dealt with is reflected in the decreased percentage of convictions, which fell so low as 50·7, and the general lightness of sentences. So far the separation of magisterial and civil business, which was initiated last year, does not seem to have had the effect of quickening the disposal of criminal work, but the decreasing pre-occupation of district officials, as times improve, with matters of revenue administration, will provide the opportunity for improvement in this respect.

Prisons

15. With the criminal courts less busy the average daily jail population fell to 4,150, the smallest figure since last famine. There was no overcrowding, the health of the prisoners was on the whole good, and the mortality the same as that of the free population. Very few juvenile offenders were sent to prison. Among the convicts under sentence of labour forty-nine per cent. were employed on manufactures, and as the result of the efforts made to improve the nature and the adjustment of convict employment the cash earnings increased very largely. The fall of prices also helped to reduce the dieting charges, and deducting cash earnings from the total amount spent in guarding and maintaining the prisoners, the net cost per head works out to Rs. 23-5-0, less than half what it was in 1901. It has been recognized that the work of the two departments of Prisons and

Police is too much for one controlling officer, and separation has been effected since the close of the year. For about half the year under report the work of Inspector-General of Jails was actually conducted by an officer specially appointed for the purpose.

Civil Justice.

16. The year 1902 was the first throughout which Civil Judicial work was carried on by a separate staff. The separation will not, however, be complete until the passing of the Central Provinces Civil Courts Bill, and the introduction of the new scheme, already sanctioned, for the conduct of work in the subordinate Civil Courts, make it possible to confine both Civil Judges and Munsifs exclusively to civil work. However, as the result of the change in system, improvement at once manifested itself both in the quality and despatch of civil business. The number of suits instituted was slightly less than last year, but there was a substantial rise both in the number disposed of (from 76,500 to 80,500) and in the value of the suits (from 104 to 122 lakhs), while the aggregate amount realised by execution of decrees increased from under 11½ to over 12½ lakhs. There was also a large increase both in the number of appeals instituted and in the number disposed of, and the average duration of cases fell greatly both in the District Appellate Courts and in that of the Judicial Commissioner.

Registration.

17. The number of registrations was 2,000 less than last year. This decrease, which is almost wholly in registrations affecting immoveable property, appears to be largely the effect of debt conciliation proceedings under which the creditor is relieved of the necessity of obtaining and registering a fresh document in order to safeguard his debt. With regard to the transfer of proprietary rights it is satisfactory to find that while the value of land has been steadily rising the numbers of both sales and mortgages have fallen and that, although money-lenders have taken more mortgages, the greater proportion of the sales have been in favour of agriculturists.

Municipal Administration.

18. The number of Municipalities rose from 45 to 46 owing to the establishment of a Municipality at Pulgaon, a rising centre of trade in the Wardha District. Municipal income increased nearly half a lakh, and with good harvest and flourishing trade, the income would doubtless have been larger were it not that, partly as the effect of the orders of the Government of India fixing a limit for the taxation of various classes of articles, and partly owing to the disturbance caused by the unwelcome appearance of plague, there was a general decline in octroi receipts, which form the financial mainstay of all important Municipalities. Except in Jubbulpore, Bhandara and Saugor, the financial position of all Municipalities is sound. At the two latter places the position can be saved by careful economy, but at Jubbulpore the resources of the Municipality have been much strained by a virulent outbreak of plague, and the year ended with a deficit of over Rs. 19,000, which had to be recouped by a grant from Government. In Nagpur, Harda and Seoni considerable improvements to water-supply have been effected, and in Sambalpur the new drainage scheme was pushed forward. Elsewhere, want of funds has stood in the way of large measures of improvement. The relations between Government officials and Municipal bodies continued excellent.

District Councils and Local Boards

19. The number of Local Boards was raised from 54 to 55 by the creation of the Chhindwara Jagir Board, and several changes were effected with a view to reform in the constitution of the Zamindari Boards of Chhattisgarh, several of which have hitherto had a nominal existence only. Owing partly to the full realization of cesses in nearly all districts, the total income of the Councils rose, and existing resources were supplemented by a large grant from the Government of India for expenditure on education. In consequence a number of new Primary Schools were constructed, and it has been found possible to raise the pay of all qualified teachers to a minimum of Rs. 10 per mensem. Most of the expenditure on public works was devoted to the improvement of communications carried out through the agency of the Public Works Department, and arrangements were made for the transfer of all roads hitherto repaired in this way to the independent control of the Public Works Department in future. Comparatively little was done in the way of village sanitation, and a special grant for this purpose was provided after the close of the year. Some advance was made in the direction of awakening the interest of the Local Board members by extending the scope of their functions and authority, and most of the special grant schools were constructed through the agency of the School Committees.

Agriculture.

20. On the whole the agriculture of the year was highly successful. Although the season was not very favourable to sowing, the area under crops has increased 2·6 per cent. and the total area occupied for cultivation 1·2 per cent., an increase to which every district in the Province contributed. The occupied area has now reached 2,234,899 acres and is the largest ever recorded. Of the kharif crops the area under rice was 8 per cent. below the normal, but the recent seasons of light rainfall have greatly encouraged the growth of cotton and juar, and the area under cotton was no less than 66 per cent. above the decennial average. The establishment of numerous local spinning and weaving mills, the brisk export trade, and the remunerative prices fetched by cotton, have all combined to increase the popularity of the crop. Owing to the irregular conditions of the rabi sowing season cultivators hesitated to risk the more valuable rabi crops, and the areas under wheat, gram and linseed are all smaller than those of last year, and the whole area devoted to rabi crops has diminished 4·2 per cent. Having regard to the special circumstances by which it was induced, the decrease must be classed as accidental, and not as affording evidence of arrested recovery.

Agricultural experiment and Horticulture.

21. The Department of Agriculture in the Central Provinces has been rapidly developed during the past two years, and various agricultural experiments have been started on a most comprehensive scale all over the Province. During the year two additional experimental farms and nine demonstration farms have been established. The District Agricultural and Industrial Associations have also come into existence, while agricultural education has been strengthened by the association of the Patwari staff in the teaching of agricultural and kindred subjects in village schools. The Hindi Agricultural Gazette, started last year, has proved a most useful publication, and much is expected from the lately added Malguzar Class of the Nagpur Agricultural School. The season was unfavourable to horticulture. Flowers did well, but owing to the deficient rainfall fruit and vegetable crops gave poor outturns. Good results in stock-raising could not be obtained, and in consequence very little was done in the way of distribution of seeds and plants to cultivators.

Weather and crops.

22. The regular monsoon did not set in till the beginning of July. Moderate to heavy rain fell during July, but a prolonged break early in August caused some anxiety, which, however, was removed by good general rain towards the end of the month. The monsoon came to an end in the south of the Province very early in September, and elsewhere in the first week of October. Heavy rain fell at the end of October over the north and west of the Province, and scattered showers were received during the winter months. The rainfall of the year for the Province as a whole was considerably short, being as low as $37\frac{1}{2}$ inches against an average of 50. The very light rainfall in the south suited cotton and juar, but ruined the rice and damaged other kharif crops, and the rabi sowings also suffered from want of moisture. The storm which burst over the northern and western districts at the end of October greatly benefited the rabi crops, and with timely showers falling later on, the rabi season in the north and west was one of the best on record. The general outturns are, however, much diminished by the poorer harvests of the south. Cotton, juar and til gave normal yields over much expanded areas, and rice, which did well in the north, was 49 per cent. of the normal. The wheat crop was very good in the northern and central districts, but was only 50 per cent. in Raipur: for the Province as a whole wheat was 115, while gram and linseed were 87 and 90 respectively of the normal. Taking the Province as a whole, the outturn of the year was 82 per cent. of the normal cropping of a standard area.

Forests.

23. Field-surveys of 313 square miles of forest were completed by two detachments of the Forest Surveys, and good progress was also made in demarcation. The preparation of working-plans has now been stopped over areas where, owing to the absence of any demand for material, it is impossible to give effect to the operations prescribed by the plans. The fire season was a long one, but was otherwise favourable to fire-protection, owing to the fact that high winds were not so prevalent as usual, and conservancy operations met with much the same satisfactory measure of success as last year. The forests suffered from the effects of the continued drought, and sylvicultural operations were not successful, while the quality of the seeding and natural reproduction have both been poor. Owing to the improved purchasing capacity of all classes, the demand for fuel was very brisk. No less than 290,000 narrow-gauge sleepers were supplied to the Satpura Railway, and very large consignments of timber in the log to the Ordnance Factory at Jubbulpore, with the result that the large surplus of $1\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs standing to the credit of the Department last year has mounted still higher to $3\frac{1}{5}$ lakhs this, so that the finances of the Department have now been placed on an exceptionally favourable footing.

Mines and quarries.

24. The mineral resources of the Central Provinces, so far as they are at present known, are chiefly coal, manganese and iron. There are two coal-mines at present at work—one by a company at Mohpani in the Narsinghpur District, the other a Government mine at Warora in the Chanda District. The output of the latter colliery was 150,000 tons, but the life of the mine is coming to an end, and every effort is being made to discover fresh coal-beds to supply the demands of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and of the cotton mills and many ginning factories in the Central Provinces and Berar. The Government has proved coal at Balarpur—11 miles from Chanda; but it has not been found possible yet to obtain coal to experiment with. The first pit which was sunk, where coal was expected at about 75 feet, was flooded with water from the Wardha river. It was found

necessary to abandon this pit and to try again at another place, about a mile from the river, where coal has been proved at about 200 feet. Flooding has caused considerable difficulty in this pit too, and it must be four or five months at least before coal will be available for experiment. Coal has also been proved by a company prospecting in the Pench river valley in the Chhindwara District. It has not been yet possible to estimate the quantity of the coal, but the samples that have been tried of it show that it is of a sufficiently good quality for use by railways.

Prospecting for coal is being carried on under license in parts of the Chanda and Bilaspur Districts. The firms interested in the production of manganese in the Nagpur, Bhandara and Balaghat Districts have been very active during the year, and the amount of manganese ore extracted which was in 1901 35,356 tons has risen to 89,600 tons. Prospecting for iron is being carried out in the Chanda and Jubbulpore Districts and in the Dondi Lohara Zamindari of the Raipur District. A mining lease for iron has just been given in the latter area.

Manufactures.

25. The immediate consequence of the extraordinary expansion in the area devoted to the cotton crop was the erection of 20 new cotton ginning and pressing factories in Wardha and 13 in Nagpur, whereby the total number of factories working in the Central Provinces was raised from 70 to 107. These factories now provide labour and good wages to 20,800 operatives.

Prices and Trade.

26. Prices have behaved excellently. In spite of the failure of the rice crop, its price remained stationary at Rs. 3-8-0 per maund. The rise in the price of cotton from Rs. 13-13-0 to Rs. 15-6-0 per maund is one of the elements of its increasing popularity among cultivators. Prices of food-grains, though generally falling, are still higher than prior to the great famine of 1896-97 and enhance the value of the important export trade in grain; wheat declined to Rs. 2-10-0 per maund, linseed to Rs. 5-4-0, til to Rs. 4-4-0, gram to Rs. 2-4-0, and juar to Rs. 1-12-0.

Trade has flourished exceedingly. The total value of imports was $5\frac{1}{3}$ crores, the chief features in the year's import trade being large increases in the imports of coal, oils, oil-seed, salts, metals, gunny-bags and wood, and a decrease in food-grains and sugar. Both the weight and value of the exports are the largest on record and their value has now reached over 8 crores of rupees. The great trade in wheat has much declined of recent years, but the loss has been more than made good by the enormous increase in exports of cotton, oil-seeds and manganese ore. The exports of cotton alone were 1,430,454 maunds valued at $2\frac{1}{5}$ crores. Exports of oil-seeds, which doubled last year, have risen again and now amount nearly to $3\frac{1}{2}$ million maunds. The enormous increase of exports of metals from 15 to 27 lakhs of maunds is almost entirely due to the rapidly developing export of manganese ore from the Nagpur country to Bombay. Comparing imports with exports the balance of trade in favour of the Province amounts to $2\frac{3}{4}$ crores of rupees and has risen by $\frac{1}{2}$ crore. It is now larger than it has ever been.

Public works.

27. No Imperial works of any importance were undertaken. It was found necessary however, owing to the failure of the rice crop, to open famine works in the Raipur District in December last, but as the numbers eventually driven to seek relief were not large, the expenditure on famine road-works hardly exceeded $\frac{1}{4}$ lakh. The remarkable expansion of the trade of the Provinces has been much assisted by the rapid development of road communications, and the

total length of metalled roads now maintained has risen to 1,374 miles and of unmetalled to 3,805 miles. The provision of road-side avenues and of accommodation for travellers and inspecting officers was not neglected. In all six lakhs were spent on road construction and rather more on repairs. There was also a large expenditure on buildings. District, Tahsil and Secretariat offices, together with circuit-houses, accounted for $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, Police buildings for $1\frac{1}{5}$ lakhs, Schools and hostels for more than 1 lakh, and Jails and Asylums for $\frac{1}{2}$ lakh each. Smaller sums went for Forest and Excise buildings and churches, raising the total expenditure on provincial public works to nearly 27 lakhs.

Good progress was also made in the construction of the Nagpur Technical Institute and Memorial Hall, and extensive improvements were added to the Ambajhiri Reservoir at Nagpur. The only work of any importance done on Postal and Telegraph offices was at Mandla, where Rs. 2,500 were spent on the Post office.

Irrigation.

28. The year marks the beginning of State irrigation in the Central Provinces. The Irrigation Commission completed their investigations in the Province in March 1902 and the immediate consequence of their recommendations was the formation of an Irrigation Circle which contained at the close of the year two Executive Divisions and two Independent Executive charges. The original programme of the Department was, however, much modified when, in the month of October, famine was declared in the Raipur District, and thereafter the Irrigation staff were chiefly employed in dealing with measures of relief. Nine large irrigation tanks were opened as famine works in the Raipur District, and the expenditure reached Rs. 1,32,000. Other useful work was also accomplished. In the Wainganga and Mahanuddy Divisions several large projects were prospected and the construction of 17 major works begun, while in the Nerbudda charge excellent progress was made on several minor irrigation works, such as wheat field embankments and the construction and improvement of small tanks, aqueducts and wells.

The dryness of the year did not favour village irrigation and the area watered from village tanks and wells shrunk from 745,628 to 548,986 acres.

Revenue and Finance.

29. Receipts from Imperial Revenues rose from $44\frac{1}{6}$ to $51\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. Evidence of the improved financial condition and more comfortable circumstances of all classes is afforded by the rapid rise in the receipts from Excise, Opium, Customs and Forests. As compared with last year, there was a considerable fall of 14 lakhs under Provincial Revenues, the decrease being due partly to large remissions and abatements of cesses in certain districts and partly to the fact that the figures of 1901-02 were swollen by an unusually large realisation of arrear cesses. The same facts caused a large fall of one and half lakhs under Road and Education Cesses. Expenditure from Provincial Revenues was 8 lakhs more than last year, the difference being almost wholly due to the introduction of the irrigation scheme, and to expenditure on Civil Works in charge of Public Works Officers, for which special grants had been provided from Imperial Revenues.

Vital Statistics.

30. The year was dry and healthy. Save for small-pox in a few districts, and for some plague at the end of the year, there was no epidemic mortality, and the ordinary autumnal prevalence of malarial fever was less than usual. In the improved conditions of life, the reproductive energy of the people increased, and

the birth-rate (48·29) was the highest recorded since 1881, and higher than in any other province of British India except Berar. The death-rate (25·82) was also remarkably low, much below the decennial mean of 32·44, and the improvement in the prospects of infant life is most noticeable. After the year under report was over parts of the Province were afflicted with a very serious outbreak of plague which still continues.

Emigration.

31. The number of emigrants to the tea gardens of Assam was 6,709 as compared with 5,534 last year, and the number of dependants also rose greatly. The increase was especially marked in Chhattisgarh and was mainly due to the distress prevailing in Raipur and Bilaspur, but partly also to the increased strength and activity of the recruiting agency. It is noteworthy that there was little or no emigration from Balaghat, Seoni, Bhandara and Chanda, where the labouring classes were able to find plenty of employment and good wages either in the cotton fields, on the manganese mines, or the Satpura Railway construction works.

Medical Relief.

32. The number of dispensaries at the end of the year was 190, two more than last year. The total number of patients, both in-door and out-door, was practically the same as last year (1,348,000), and that attendance should have been so well maintained in spite of the healthy character of the year, and the disturbing prevalence of plague in several towns, is a hopeful sign of the increasing popularity of the dispensaries. Diminished attendance in the Raipur District points to the interesting conclusion that, in spite of local distress, the physical condition of the people was well maintained. The expenditure mounted up to more than 2 lakhs, and exceeded that of last year by Rs. 20,000, the increase denoting the greater attention paid to the construction and repairs of buildings. Arrangements for the separation of male and female out-patients, while being examined and prescribed for, now exist in most dispensaries. The amount of native subscriptions has fallen, but many more beds have been endowed, and it seems clear that native gentlemen prefer this form of charity to ordinary monthly subscriptions.

The average population of the Nagpur and Jubbulpore Lunatic Asylums during the year was 368. The accommodation was sufficient, but the health of the inmates at both asylums was poor, partly owing to the after effects of the influenza which was prevalent in 1901. Attempts have been made to improve the diet, and hospital accommodation at Nagpur will shortly be improved by the construction of a new hospital.

Sanitation.

33. The most important sanitary works of the year were the improvement of the storage capacity of the Ambajhiri Reservoir at Nagpur and the completion of the Bhandara Water-works. Want of funds made it impossible to carry out any large scheme of drainage in municipal towns, but some advance was made in the construction of roadside surface drains, while the improvement of the water-supply at Chanda, Warora and Seoni was also undertaken. Village sites were cleared and cleaned in the ordinary way, but special measures in the way of rural sanitation were deferred to the current year, in which a special grant has been allotted for this purpose.

Vaccination.

34. The record of vaccination work for the year is a very good one. Altogether 464,000 vaccinations were effected, the percentage of success in primary vaccinations being 97, and in secondary 85. With two exceptions all districts

show an increase in primary vaccinations. The very high birth-rate of 1902 combined with comparatively low infant mortality accounts in the main for this increase, but a contributory cause was the commendable activity shown by the vaccination staff in most districts. Steps are being taken to improve vaccination work in municipal towns, where hitherto there has been little or no attempt to apply the provisions of the Vaccination Act.

35. The year has been one of rapid educational progress. The number of schools increased by 24 to 2,587 and of scholars by nearly 11 per cent. to 158,000. Good progress has been made in giving effect to the recommendations of the Educational Conference. The conversion of aided and combined system schools to Board Schools and the improvement of the pay of primary teachers have been attended with good results. The Middle, Upper and Lower Primary Examinations have also disappeared, and proposals have been submitted for the introduction of a Departmental School Final Examination. The number of scholarships has also been raised, and greater disciplinary powers given to the Educational Department. Primary Schools have increased both in number and strength, and much attention has been paid in them to the teaching of agricultural subjects, such as village records, the use of the village maps, the nature of soils, the elements of tenancy rights, manuscript reading and bania's accounts. School buildings have been much neglected during the recent years of distress, but fortunately the Province received during the year a special grant from Imperial Revenues for education, and much of this was spent on the provision of new and the repair of old schools in every district. The supervision of these works was to a great extent entrusted to School Committees with results which were uniformly successful. Two important measures undertaken during the year for the improvement of female education were the provincialization of girls' schools, which have hitherto been under the management of Local Bodies, and the establishment, for training purposes, of a second Female Normal School. Proposals have also been submitted for the appointment of a fourth Circle Inspector and of a competent European Circle Inspectress. The general management of the Rajkumar College for Native Chiefs continued to be excellent, and steps have been taken to improve the curriculum and raise the pay of the staff. **Education.**

The Jubbulpore Reformatory School has again shown satisfactory working. The license system is working well and a new feature of the industrial training there given has been the grading of the boys in standards according to their proficiency in particular trades.

PART II.

CHAPTER I.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

At pages 1 to 52 of the Administration Report for 1901-02 will be found an account of the following subjects drawn up for standard reference:—

1.—PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY, AREA, CLIMATE, &c.
2.—HISTORICAL SUMMARY.
3.—FORM OF ADMINISTRATION.
4.—CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES.
5.—SYSTEM OF SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT.
6.—CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY.
7.—DETAILS OF THE LAST CENSUS—TRIBES AND LANGUAGES.

8.—CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

2. The Honourable Mr. (now Sir) A. H. L. FRASER, C.S.I., held charge of the office of Chief Commissioner from the 1st April to the 15th September, from which date he was appointed President of the Police Commission, and the Honourable Mr. J. P. HEWETT, C.S.I., C.I.E., officiated for the rest of the year under report.

9.—RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES.

[Report on the administration of the Feudatory States of the Central Provinces for the year 1902.]

Administrative changes.

3. The system of administration in the 15 Feudatory States of the Central Provinces remained unchanged except in the single instance of the Sakti State, where the mismanagement of affairs was serious enough to necessitate the transfer of the greater part of the administration to a Diwan selected by the Chief Commissioner. By the death of Raja Bahadur Pratap Rudra Singh Deo in August 1902, the Sonpur State lost a ruler of approved loyalty and wisdom, and the succession passed to his eldest son, Raja Bir Mitrodaya Singh Deo. He was installed by the Chief Commissioner in November 1902.

Rainfall and crops.

4. The spring crop of 1902 was better than that of the previous year, and in the four Western States of Nandgaon, Khairagarh, Chhuikhadan and Kawardha, where alone it is of importance, the outturn approached nearly to the normal. These four States, however, suffered more than others from the capricious

RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES.

character of the monsoon of 1902, and rice, the chief staple of this part of the country, gave a very poor harvest. Fortunately severe distress was averted by the comparatively good yield of other kharif crops, and the general steadiness of prices. All the other States, owing to the outturn of rice varying from a half to a full crop, fared more or less prosperously.

Trade.

5. Trade expanded everywhere. In the Western States especially the exports of til, wheat and cotton were on a much larger scale than in 1901, and the apprehension of scarcity at the end of the year led to large imports of rice. The traffic on the central high road from Raipur to Jagdalpur exceeded that of 1901 by about 20 per cent., and that of 1899 by about 30 per cent.

Finance.

6. There was marked improvement in the financial position of all States, especially of those under direct Government management. Of the latter five out of seven were entirely cleared of debt, and the balances due by the other two States, Nandgaon and Patna, were considerably reduced. In the remaining eight States the aggregate debt has been brought from Rs. 1,32,000 down to Rs. 92,000, and Sakti and Khairagarh alone now remain in debt.

Condition of the people.

7. The fortunes of the people continued to mend. In three out of the four Western States the large extension of the cropped area noticed last year was well maintained this, and there is good reason to believe that a full normal area was under crop in all States. The year was a healthy one except for some outbreaks of small-pox in a few States which however do not appear to have been of a very serious character, and there was no unusual mortality among cattle except in one tract in Bastar. Prices of food-grains have been easier than in 1901. Altogether the circumstances of the year have been more favourable, and an indication that the condition of the people has responded to this improvement is to be found in the higher birth-rate of the year.

Land Revenue.

8. Under the circumstances it is not surprising that the land revenue came in very well. The realisations on current account reached 94 per cent. in all States except Nandgaon, where however the recently revised assessment proposals showed that there has been considerable deterioration since last settlement. Still, the collections in Nandgaon balanced the revenue-paying capacity of the State, and the aggregate realisations for all States on both arrear and current account reached the respectable figure of 96 per cent., a result obtained quite without undue pressure anywhere. The work of clearing up the land revenue accounts was vigorously pushed on and has now been completed in all States except Nandgaon, where the bulk of the outstanding arrears will in all probability have to be written off.

Settlement operations.

9. Good progress was made with settlement work. Revised assessment proposals have been sanctioned for Kawardha and Chhuikhadan, and the new settlements are working satisfactorily. In Nandgaon the work was complicated, as it was found to involve a re-classification of soils and adjustment of rents, but assessment proposals introducing large abatements of revenue have recently been submitted. Other assessment reports, which were shortly expected at the end of the year, are those from Sarangarh, Bastar and Kalahandi. Among States not under direct management revised assessments were introduced during the year in Kanker and Bamra, and the work of re-assessment in Rairakhol is almost complete.

Law, crime and justice.

10. The character of civil litigation continued to be uneventful, and in nearly all the States a very large proportion of the suits were less than Rs. 50 in value and only a small proportion were contested. Crime has decreased with the improvement in the condition of the people and was nowhere of a very serious character. The decrease is especially evident in Bastar, Kanker, Kalahandi, Patna and Sonepur. On the whole the criminal judicial work has been fairly well done except in Sakti, where the defects in administration extended to the conduct of the case work in the criminal courts.

There has been marked improvement in this respect in Patna, where, both by the police and the magistracy, crime has been properly treated. The new Police Rules dealing with the non-investigation of purely petty offences have also been introduced for the first time into several States, and have worked well.

Jails.

11. Most of the jails had a smaller population than in 1901, and save to a small extent in Chhuikhadan and Bhowanipatna jails all overcrowding disappeared. The mortality fell from 7·2 to 3·8 per cent., there were no outbreaks of epidemic disease, the health of the prisoners generally was better, escapes fewer, tasks better enforced, and financial results as good as or better than in 1901. The improvement in jail administration was specially marked in Kawardha, Bastar and Patna.

Medical and Vaccination.

12. The number of State dispensaries remained unchanged, and the total average attendance was about the same as in 1901. The institutions have been efficiently maintained, and a beginning has been made in the giving of voluntary contributions in Nandgaon and Bastar. Vaccination continues to grow in popularity, and the total number of operations performed increased from 82,000 to 96,000.

Forests.

13. The information received from the different estates regarding the working of their Forest administration is meagre, but it seems clear that the attempts being made to introduce scientific methods into the management of the forests of some estates have hitherto met with little success.

Excise.

14. Excise receipts increased slightly in most States, the increases generally falling under the head of liquor distillery fees. In consequence of the recent rise in the price of ganja, the consumption of the drug appears to have been checked, but smuggling is in most States as prevalent as ever.

Taxation.

15. The Government scale of taxation on income remained in force in all States. Arrangements were in progress during the year to relieve from assessment small incomes below Rs. 500. Except in Patna and Kanker, where there are considerable outstandings, collections were satisfactory.

Education.

16. Education made great strides in most States, and is now on the whole in a more advanced state than during the period previous to the famine. The number of schools in the eleven States under the Agency Inspector increased from 226 to 276, and the number of scholars from 12,654 to 14,905: the percentage of children of school age under tuition has consequently risen from 4·9 to 5·7. The general standard of tuition is satisfactory in all the eleven States, except in Kalahandi. An English Middle School was opened at Raigarh, and there are now boarding-houses attached to the schools at Nandgaon, Jagdalpur, Bhowanipatna and Bolangir. Physical exercises have received due attention, and tone and discipline are generally good. The number of girls under tuition also increased from 1,155 to 1,649. The difficulties in the way of the education of low-caste children will, it is hoped, be gradually overcome by the establishment of new schools in places where people of low-caste abound, and by offering education free. There are 22 boys now at the Rajkumar College at Raipur, and the general management of the institution continues to be excellent. Steps are being taken to improve the curriculum and to raise the pay of the staff.

Public works.

17. The necessity for economy involved a curtailment of programme in all the States in which public works are under the control of the Executive Engineer, Chhattisgarh States Division. In most States very little was done beyond ordinary maintenance and repairs, and the only substantial expenditures were in Bastar (Rs. 31,000), Nandgaon (Rs. 28,000) and Kalahandi (Rs. 26,000): in these

RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES.

States good progress was made in road-making, notably on the Jagdalpur-Arunda main road, which has been completed, so that the road is now open throughout its entire length of 144 miles. A fresh road-scheme has been prepared for the Chhattisgarh States, and the systematic investigation of the possibilities of irrigation in the different estates is now about to be undertaken. Among the remaining States very little beyond a little road construction and repair was attempted, except in Kanker, where the greater part of Rs. 3,500 was spent on the Chief's palace, jail, and the Sambalpur tahsil office. So far, however, as public works were concerned, the majority of States were content to mark time during the year.

10.—CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

18. In last year's Administration Report full information was given regarding the conditions of life in the Central Provinces during the last decade, and it was then shown that the two years succeeding the last great famine of 1899-1900 had witnessed progressive improvement in the material condition of all classes of people. How well this upward progress towards prosperity has been maintained during the year under report must appear from the narrative of every chapter of this Report, but more particularly from the sections dealing with "Agriculture," "Weather and Crops," "Trade," "Realization of the Revenue," and "The Revenue and Rent-paying Classes."

The cultivators and labourers.

19. The cultivators experienced the most varied degrees of fortune. In the northern and plateau districts and the cotton-juar tracts of the south-west, which received a light but well-distributed rainfall, they have enjoyed one of the best years on record, but in Raipur, Bilaspur, Balaghat, Bhandara and Chanda, owing to the early cessation of the monsoon and the consequent failure of the all-important rice crop, there was at one time apprehension that famine operations might be necessary on a considerable scale. Even here, however, the situation was greatly eased by the general prosperity of the rest of the land, by liberal remissions of rents and revenue, by an enormous demand for labour in the neighbouring province of Berar, which had a bumper cotton crop, and by the low prices of food-grains. It was not necessary to open relief works except in the Raipur District. Elsewhere the situation was met by grant-in-aid works and gratuitous relief on a small scale. In spite of a none too favourable season the area occupied for cultivation was the largest ever recorded, and the area under the valuable cotton and juar crops increased enormously. The area under the important rabi staples wheat, gram and linseed decreased, but the decrease was on the whole more than counterbalanced by the excellence of the yields. The numbers of live-stock in the Province rose greatly and plough-cattle increased even in Chhattisgarh. Both landlords and tenants were well able to pay their rents, and, with seed cheaply obtainable, were able to sow their land without much assistance either from Government or the money-lenders. It is also satisfactory to find that both sales and mortgages of proprietary rights in land show a fair decrease, and that transfers, especially private ones, were, as a rule, in favour of agriculturists.

The labouring classes were generally fortunate. Farm-tenants and casual labourers were fully occupied over the greater part of the Province in the harvesting of the excellent crops, and there was considerable emigration from the distressed rice tracts of the Wainganga valley to Berar and from Chhattisgarh on the other side to the adjoining parts of Bengal. The wages of labour were everywhere good, and in the cotton-juar tracts very high. The operations undertaken in the Mandla and Balaghat Districts by the Forest Department for the supply of sleepers to the new Satpura Railway, which was under construction, and the new manganese mines in Balaghat gave abundance of employment. In consequence the number of coolies recruited for the tea gardens of Assam in the districts of Bhandara, Balaghat and Chanda, where the crops were more or less disappointing, were less than might have been expected. The numbers employed daily in mines and factories rose to 25,000, and unskilled workmen were earning not less than 3 annas a day.

20. Evidence of the more comfortable circumstances of all classes also appears in the largely increased revenue derived from the sales of country liquors, opium, and cloth from the mills, and in the considerable fall in the sales of court-fee stamps, which in many cases was due to the private settlement of disputes out of Court, or to the healing effect of the conciliation proceedings which were successfully extended during the year to the Hoshangabad and Bhandara Districts. Trade flourished, and, in spite of the smaller quantity of food-grains brought in, imports increased, while exports have been the highest on record, so that the balance of trade in favour of the Province was the largest on record. The year, moreover, was an unusually healthy one, and the improvement in the physical condition of the people is marked by an abnormally high birth-rate and a low ratio of deaths. The birth-rate indeed was the highest recorded since 1881.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

1.—REALISATION OF THE REVENUE.

REALISATION OF THE REVENUE.

[Resolution on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces for the year nding 30th September 1902, paragraph 10 and following.]

On the roll.

21. The demand of land revenue on the roll amounted to Rs. 84,28,321, a figure which shows an increase of some Rs. 53,000. The increase is due to the re-settlement of the Drug Tahsil in Raipur; to expiry of abatements in Saugor and Seoni, and to progressive assessments in Balaghat. Abatements in Narsinghpur, rendered necessary by deterioration of villages, produced a decrease of some Rs. 9,000. Out of the current demand it was found necessary to suspend half a lakh in Jubbulpore, and to remit rather over 3½ lakhs in the Betul, Raipur, Saugor, Hoshangabad, Balaghat and Seoni Districts. Allowing for these concessions the collection of the net current demand (Rs. 80,65,723) was extremely good. The arrear accounts have been greatly simplified in all districts in consequence of the very liberal remissions of famine arrears granted under the orders of the Government of India, and the year closed with an outstanding balance of only Rs. 4,14,752.

Not on the roll.

22. The demand for land revenue not on the roll is mainly on account of revenue due from ryotwari villages. Rupees 1,94,645 were collected out of a current demand of Rs. 2,28,729: including collections for previous years, the amount paid in to Government was practically equivalent to the current demand.

Coercive processes.

23. These results, among 32,868 mahals, were obtained by the imprisonment of 112 defaulters in the civil jail, the execution of 1,826 warrants of simple attachment, and the sale of 15 mahals; but the comparatively small percentage of cases in which arrest was followed by imprisonment and goods were actually attached or sold indicates that coercion was not used in cases where real hardship would ensue. It is, moreover, abundantly clear that landlords have in many cases attempted to evade payment in the foolish hope that the concessions granted during the recent year of distress would be repeated even in a year of prosperity. While, however, there is no reason to suspect that undue pressure was exercised, it is perhaps open to doubt whether the form of process issued was in all cases the most suitable, and steps are now being taken to ensure that in future the punishment for delay more closely fits the defaulter.

Advances under the Land Improvement Loans and Agriculturists' Loans Acts.

24. The Government loan account (principal) stands thus (in thousands of rupees) :—

	Under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.	Under the Land Improvement Loans Act.
Outstanding at commencement of the year	38,11	19,98
Remitted	4,41	38
Collected	10,89	5,50
Advanced	3,08	55
Outstandiding at close of the year	25,89	4,165

About half the outstandings under the Agriculturists' Loans Act relate to the Raipur and Bilaspur Districts, which also claim the bulk of the remissions and about half the collections. Advances were made most largely in the depressed districts of Saugor, Betul, Hoshangabad and Raipur. Most of the remissions

represent sums of which recovery was hopeless, but some part of them are the results of the action of the State in taking part, with other creditors, in conciliation proceedings.

The bulk of advances made under the Land Improvement Loans Act were made in the Saugor District, with the object of extirpating the *kans* grass which has done so much damage to the black cotton soil. The Nagpur Division absorbs over three-quarters of the provincial outstandings and transactions under this Act.

Good progress has been made in the work of unravelling the various loan accounts from the confusion into which a succession of large advances hurriedly made during the recent famines had reduced them, and in consolidating and clearing them of irrecoverable balances. The work, which has been well begun in the Nagpur and Nerbudda Divisions, has been practically finished in the Jubbulpore Division. Excellent progress has also been made in the Chhattisgarh Division, where unfortunately further consideration will be necessary in view of the partial failure of the last kharif crops.

2.—SURVEYS.

SURVEYS.

Traverse survey.

25. During the field season of 1902-03, the traverse survey of an area of 629 square miles and supplementary topographical survey of 2,347 square miles was completed by the Imperial Survey Department. The latter is an important departure, being the first step taken towards the revision of the old topographical survey for the purpose of preparing fresh atlas sheets which will be up to date.

Cadastral survey.

26. The cadastral survey of 10 square miles was completed in the ryotwari tracts of Nimar, and 37 and 319 square miles respectively in the jagirs of Hoshangabad and Chhindwara. This completes the cadastral survey of the province for all lands under the management of the Revenue Department in which this survey is contemplated.

3.—SETTLEMENTS.

SETTLEMENTS.

Assessment Reports.

27. The review of the Commissioner of Settlements on the final report of the revision of assessment in the Saugor District was submitted during the year to the Government of India. The revised settlement of the Betul District has also, since the close of the year, received the approval of the Government of India. The submission of the final settlement report of the Bhandara District has been withheld because, owing to the deterioration of certain tracts, it was decided that some abatement should be given before the settlement was reported for sanction.

Progress of assessment.

28. Settlement operations were in progress in a portion of the khalsa and in the zamindaris of the Raipur District, in Sambalpur and Chanda, and map, correction preparatory to assessment in the Mandla District. In the Raipur (khalsa) District the map-correction work of East Simga, excluding the preparation of map-correction jamabandis of 236 villages outstanding last year, was completed. This brought to a close the map-correction work of the Raipur District. The revision of the settlement of the Raipur khalsa was commenced in 1897, but before any new assessment was announced, the district was visited by the severe famine of 1899-1900. Settlement operations were then postponed, and after the extent of the deterioration caused by that famine had been ascertained, it was decided not to renew operations in the greater portion of the district, but to confine them to the Drug Tahsil and the western portion of Simga and Dhamtari Tahsils, which were not re-settled in 1885—89 for the reason that a summary settlement had been made in 1884—86. It was found that the deterioration caused by the famines was less in this summarily settled tract than in the rest of the district, whilst the rents and revenue were lighter. It was, therefore, decided, with the approval of the Government of India, to make a short-term settlement of eight years with a small enhancement of rents and revenue in the summarily settled tract. In accordance with this programme, the revised settlement of the Drug Tahsil was completed and announced, the result being an enhancement of 10 per cent. in tenants' payments and an enhancement

from Rs. 1,72,313 to Rs. 2,05,118, or 19 per cent., in land revenue. There then occurred another severe failure of the crops in 1901, in consequence of which settlement operations were discontinued altogether except in the Sanjari group in the Dhamtari Tahsil, where a re-distribution of the existing demand was required. This was completed and the settlement operations thus brought to a close in the khalsa of Raipur.

In the Raipur zamindaris the attestation of village maps and records had been completed last season, and the field work during the year consisted of the announcement of rents and revised jamas and of the demarcation of forest mahals. Rents, kamil-jamas and the revised cesses were announced in 1,890 villages belonging to 14 zamindari estates. The revision of the assessment has thus been completed in the Raipur zamindaris, the only work remaining for disposal being the fixation of revised takolis or quit-revenues payable by the zamindars.

The results of the re-settlement show that the kamil-jama of the zamindari estates as a whole has been raised from Rs. 1,42,273 to Rs. 1,96,145, or 38 per cent., and the cesses payable at the new settlement, including ryoti patwari cess, amount to Rs. 32,790 as against Rs. 18,139 paid at present. The total expenditure for the year is Rs. 26,907, and the cost of settlement for the entire period is estimated at a fraction over Rs. 29 per square mile inclusive of the cost of map-correction work and of the measurement of 24 villages previously omitted from the scope of survey operations.

In the khalsa of the Sambalpur District the attestation of 698 villages, covering an area of 1,241 square miles, was finished, which completes the field work of the khalsa. Rent-rate proposals were submitted for 357 villages covering an area of 644 square miles. An area of 1,773 square miles still remains for final assessment. Operations will begin in the zamindaris of Sambalpur in the ensuing year. The cost of the operation during the year amounted to Rs. 49,919. The failure of the rice crop retarded the progress of settlement work in Chanda, but a fair amount of work has been done. The programme of the field work was confined to the attestation and inspection of 172 villages in the khalsa, and of 930 villages in the zamindaris. The revised assessments of nine groups of the Warora Tahsil, resulting in a revenue increment of Rs. 21,576, were announced during the year. The final assessment of 1,918 villages in the khalsa and 1,207 villages in the zamindaris, covering an area of 7,865 square miles, still remains to be completed. The expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 64,342-5-10. Map-correction prior to re-settlement was started in Mandla early in December 1902. The year's work was confined to the Mandla Tahsil comprising an occupied area of 1,634 square miles. The map-correction of 1,061 villages, covering an area of 1,630 square miles, was completed during the year in spite of difficulties arising out of the scattered position of and the shifting nature of cultivation in the area worked upon. The cost of the operations approximated to Rs. 13,331. Regular settlement has now been started in the Mandla Tahsil and map-correction is in progress in the Dindori Tahsil.

Abatements of rents and revenue in deteriorated tracts.

29. The deterioration caused by the famines and crop failures called for an abatement of the land revenue in some districts. Abatement operations were taken up in all deteriorated villages (413 in number) in the Betul District, a reduction of Rs. 17,059 being made in the land revenue for a period of three years. Similar operations were undertaken in the Bhandara and Balaghat Districts, which had suffered considerably. Enquiry showed that there were 418 deteriorated villages in the Bhandara District, in which an abatement of Rs. 25,765 was sanctioned for three years. In Balaghat an abatement of Rs. 9,987 in 135 deteriorated villages was sanctioned for three years.

LAND RECORDS.

4.—LAND RECORDS.

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year 1901-02.]

Revision of establishment.

30. With the object of improving the Land Record work of Chhattisgarh, the inefficiency of which was commented on by the Government of India, the Land Record Staff in Bilaspur was completely revised and strengthened during the year, and similar proposals for Raipur have been approved since the close of the year. In other districts an increase in the number of posts of Assistant Superintendents, Assistant Patwari Fund Clerks and office peons awaits the

sanction of the Secretary of State. This revision of establishment involves an extra expenditure of Rs. 58,000, for which a grant from provincial revenues will be required. The prospects of the staff have been considerably improved by nearly doubling the number of Assistant Superintendents and the deputation of members of the staff to other departments of service.

The Patwari Fund.

31. The Patwari Fund opened the year with a deficit of some Rs. 2,83,000, which was made good by a provincial contribution, and closed with a credit balance of nearly one and a half lakhs, the receipts being exceptionally large owing to the collection of arrears of previous years.

Changes in the system of Land Records.

32. The year has been marked by various important changes in the system of land records. The *majmua rasid-bahi* or village compilation of rental collections has been introduced in addition to the receipt books already maintained for each tenant separately. Steps have been taken, in some cases with only partial success, to instruct the Land Record Staff in the somewhat complicated procedure necessitated by the recent changes in the law on the subjects of the appropriation of payments to rent account, the avoidance of transfers, and the accrual of occupancy rights in transferred *sir* land. Revised instructions have now been issued which should clear up some doubtful points which had arisen in the interpretation of the law restricting transfers by tenants. The duty of maintaining the Circle Note Book has been transferred from the Superintendent of Land Records to the Kanungo, while that of the Village Note Book has been taken from the latter and made over to Revenue Inspectors. The last of these records continues to be found most useful to officers on tour. The *jamabandi* in ryotwari villages has been abandoned as being superfluous in addition to the *kistbandi*. The abolition of the pandhri tax has also relieved the staff of the occupation register which was maintained for that purpose.

Village maps.

33. Regular map-correction prior to revision of assessment continued during the year in Raipur, Bilaspur and Sambalpur under professional supervision. It was also found necessary to have a re-survey of the ryotwari tracts of Nimar, Chhindwara, Betul and Hoshangabad: and original survey work continued in the Chhindwara Jagirs. Elsewhere map-correction was carried out by the Land Record Staff.

Village papers.

34. There was some improvement during the year in the punctuality observed in filing papers. The districts of Mandla, Hoshangabad, Wardha and Nagpur have a clean record. *Milankhasras* are almost invariably filed with *jinswars* and therefore in good time: the only districts where they were late were Nimar and Chanda, where survey and settlement are in progress. Some *jamabandis* were filed late, but all were sent in within one month of the appointed date. The amount of khasra testing by Revenue Inspectors, whose work was not, this year, interfered with by census operations, showed a great improvement as against last year's figures, and in all cases the amount of inspection done is above the 10 per cent. prescribed minimum. The check of these papers in the Tahsil Office was generally sufficient and revealed a smaller proportion of error than usual, the percentage of inaccuracy being 1·19 as against 2·07 last year. The amount of testing and inspection in the field done by Revenue Officers shows some improvement, but is still inadequate.

Survey marks.

35. Village boundary-marks, traverse-stations and boundary marks of ryotwari survey numbers were generally maintained in good order, but there is room for improvement in this respect in the districts of Jubbulpore, Hoshangabad, Chhindwara and Raipur.

The number of sanads granted for agricultural improvements has fallen from 508 in the previous year to 314, and the Director of Land Records has pointed out that the subordinate staff require to be enlivened as to their duties in this respect.

The Land Record Staff.

36. Fair progress has been made in the difficult task of inducing patwaris to reside in their circles and in instructing and training them. Excluding four districts, from which the figures returned are incomplete, 322 patwaris and 544 candidates were trained and examined during the year. The number of punishments inflicted on patwaris has decreased. Nearly half of the total number of punishments were inflicted in the Chhattisgarh Division, where the recent

LAND RECORDS.

measures to reduce the size of charges and increase the pay and prospects of the staff will, it is hoped, soon bear good fruit. Good work was encouraged by the grant of rewards. Only 38 Revenue Inspectors had to be punished during the year against 56 last year, and there were only three dismissals. Generally speaking, the work and conduct of the staff of Revenue Inspectors were good. The work of Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Land Records has been, almost without exception, good, and an important addition to their authority has been made in the conferral upon them of the power of inflicting small fines upon the spot.

In addition to their ordinary duties, the Land Record Staff have had much extra work to do in the preparation of schemes for suspension, remission and abatement of the land revenue demand. They have also given considerable assistance in demonstrating practical improvements in agriculture and the diffusion of agricultural knowledge. The sale of quinine by patwaris is gradually spreading, and over 30,000 packets have been sold through their agency during the year.

WASTE LANDS.

5.—WASTE LANDS.

Progress of allotment.

37. Waste lands suitable for cultivation have been excised from the Government forests in several districts and thrown open for occupation by ryots under a ryotwari tenure. The total area so made available for cultivation is about 1,420 square miles, most of which is situated in the Mandla, Nimar and Balaghat Districts. This area was increased during the year by the excision from Government forests of an additional area of 123,934 acres, situated in the Mandla, Seoni, Hoshangabad, Nimar and Raipur Districts. The area actually allotted to ryots during the year amounted to 36,650 acres bearing an assessment of Rs. 14,693, whilst the area relinquished was 19,595 acres bearing an assessment of Rs. 8,284. The demand for this land was largest in the Nimar, Balaghat and Seoni Districts. The total area allotted in these ryotwari tracts amounts to 529,334 acres with an assessment of Rs. 2,17,912, whilst an area of 378,638 acres with an assessment of Rs. 1,12,941 is still available for allotment. The deterioration caused by the famines and the decrease of population have temporarily lessened the demand for waste land. Moreover, very little has been done by Government in the past to encourage the settlement of these waste lands, the amount hitherto spent on the development of these tracts in the way of permanent improvements, such as wells, roads and the like, having been insignificant.

Rice villages.

38. Certain plots have been given out under the rice rules, under which concessions in the revenue are made on condition that the patel spends a fixed amount upon the construction of irrigation tanks. This system is most common in the Chanda District, where 38 villages are held on these terms. The total expenditure by patels upon tanks has amounted to Rs. 25,650 as against Rs. 28,391 fixed in their agreements for expenditure within this period and as against a total fixed outlay of Rs. 31,109. The patels have thus for the most part kept their agreements in spite of the successive bad seasons. The villages are showing marked progress, many ryots are settling, and improvements are being made.

Revision of Settlement of waste lands.

39. A regular revision of the assessment of ryotwari tracts is in progress in the Nimar District, and revised rent-rates have been fixed for 178 villages. The settlement of ryotwari villages in the Chanda District is also being revised concurrently with that of the malguzari villages. Revision settlements have also been completed of some individual villages that have been newly taken up, including eight villages in Seoni, one in Nagpur and one in Mandla. Some isolated plots have also been assessed in the Hoshangabad and Wardha Districts.

GOVERNMENT ESTATES.

6.—GOVERNMENT ESTATES.

40. There are no Government estates in the Central Provinces.

WARDS ESTATES.

7.—WARDS ESTATES.

[Report on the management by Government of Private Estates in the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th September 1902.]

Operations of the Court.

41. The hopes which had been entertained of saving several estates, which had been verging on bankruptcy when first taken over at the beginning of last

WARDS ESTATES.

decade, had inevitably disappeared during a succession of calamitous seasons. During the past year, therefore, efforts were made, with considerable success, to carry out the new policy of relieving the Court of Wards of all hopelessly indebted estates: 25 estates were released from, and 10 estates were brought under, the Court, with the net result that the number of estates under management declined from 140 at the beginning to 122 at the close of the year. Action is still going on in the direction of further relinquishment of hopelessly encumbered estates.

Income.

42. The total gross income of the year was Rs. 13,48,000, of which Rs. 8,78,000 was contributed by rents and Rs. 1,62,000 by forests. The rental collections exceeded the current demand by Rs. 21,000, a result which, though by no means unsatisfactory, must appear, in view of the large arrear demand, to leave room for improvement. Good progress has, however, been made in overhauling and clearing the rental accounts in nearly all districts, thus facilitating larger collections earlier in the season next year. Once again many of the wards who had been allowed to rent their home-farm proved the worst defaulters, and in consequence of repeated failures in the past the general rule has now been laid down that no ward shall hold any part of his estate except so much as may be given him rent free for his own maintenance.

Expenditure.

43. The total expenditure came to Rs. 10,77,000, of which Rs. 5,10,000 went for land revenue, Rs. 1,70,000 for cost of management, 1½ lakhs for personal expenditure and 1 lakh for the interest charges on the consolidated estate debts. Except in three districts, where the rental collection was less efficient than elsewhere, the whole of the land revenue demand was paid in full.

Advances to tenants.

44. Considerable assistance has been given during the year to tenants by way of advances of seed-grain and money. In the Jubbulpore Division the experiment of giving out selected and cleaned seed was started.

Improvements.

45. In the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions but little in the way of improvement could be done on account of the indebtedness of the estates under management. In the estates of the Nagpur District, some Rs. 10,000 was usefully spent in land improvements, while in the large estates of Chhattisgarh as much as Rs. 94,000 was spent on roads and other works of utility. As times improve and larger reserves are accumulated, the scale both of advance transactions and of public improvements will be extended, and programmes of useful public works have already been drawn up.

Liquidation of debt.

46. Taking into consideration debts repaid and new debts incurred the net sum spent in reduction of debt was Rs. 1,18,000, the balance of debt outstanding at the close of the year being Rs. 17,39,000.

Miscellaneous.

47. The education of the minor wards has received attention everywhere, and some were brought in to Nagpur to attend the Agricultural Class which has recently been opened for the sons of land-owners.

Much has also been done to reorganize establishments on a more economical basis, and the average cost of management, which varies between 10 and 13 per cent. of gross income, is not now unduly high.

8.—REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

[Resolution on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces for the year ending 30th September 1902.]

The agricultural fortune of the year.

48. It has been explained that owing to the early cessation of the monsoon in the south, and the generally uneven and capricious character of the rainfall over the greater part of the province, the most startling variations of fortune were experienced in different parts of the country. While the districts of the Nerbudda Valley and the Satpura plateau enjoyed one of the best years on record and the northern districts were generally fortunate, the rice tracts of the Wainganga Valley and Chhattisgarh were unable to escape a serious failure of crops. Taking the province as a whole, however, there is clear evidence that the tide of prosperity which turned to the flow in the latter half of 1900 has not been stayed during the past year. The area held by occupancy tenants decreased slightly; but, although the season was not very favourable to sowing, the area under crops has increased 2·6 per cent. and the total area occupied for cultivation 1·2 per cent., an increase

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

to which every district in the province has contributed. The occupied area has now reached 2,234,899 acres and is the largest ever recorded. Moreover, in spite of the crop failures in the south, the total agricultural yield of the province still reached 82 per cent. of the normal and shows rapid progress as compared with the outturn (69 per cent.) of the year previous.

The tenants.

49. It follows that the tenants as a body did very well for themselves. Even in the distressed south they showed better staying power than was anticipated, and, aided by timely and liberal remissions of rents and revenue and the universally low level of prices, managed to avoid the relief works much more successfully than at first seemed possible. The tenants again were much relieved by the large emigration of the labouring classes to prosperous Berar on the one side and Bengal on the other, and there is room for hope that even in the south the misfortunes of the tenants were only heavy enough to arrest temporarily their progress towards further recovery. Over the greater part of the province, however, tenants have been more fortunate than for years past. In the northern and central districts the excellent harvests must have done much to recoup the losses of previous failures, while in the cotton-juar tracts of Nagpur and Nimar, which have had another prosperous year, agricultural credit never stood higher. Generally speaking, the tenants seem to have made better progress towards recovery than the landlords, and at the same time to have improved their position as against the latter class, while they are beginning to display greater readiness to avail themselves of the protection which the law affords them. Thus we find that applications to avoid surrenders and transfers of occupancy and ordinary holdings and civil suits for recovery of possession by tenants all show increases. There has also been an increase in the rent-roll, and rental payments on the whole have been decidedly good. Again, the live-stock of the province has multiplied greatly, especially in the number of plough-cattle, which have increased as much as 28 per cent.

The landlords.

50. As already noticed the landlords found little difficulty in paying their revenue. In Hoshangabad special assistance to landlords in collecting their rents was found necessary, and here and there the hope of further remission led to delay in payment. On the other hand the large increase in the numbers both of civil suits for arrears of rent and of applications for ejectment for arrears clearly indicate the determination of the landlords as a whole to rid themselves of useless and refractory tenants. This increased attention to rental collections is accompanied by signs that landlords do not now rely, to the same extent as hitherto, on their banking transactions with their tenants.

Relations between landlords and tenants.

51. In spite, however, of the more frequent appeal to the law, where it favours either side, the relations between the landlords and their tenants, with the usual exception of the Chhattisgarh Chamars, continue to be good, and instances of oppression on the part of landlords are rare. The conciliation proceedings, so successful of recent years, were extended with excellent results to the Hoshangabad and Bhandara Districts and parts of Balaghat. These conciliation or bankruptcy proceedings operate to the mutual advantage of both parties by limiting the tenant's liability by the measure of his actual paying capacity.

The value of the land.

52. There has been a general increase in the numbers of transfers in land, except in Saugor, Balaghat and Sambalpur. In Balaghat the small number of transfers is attributed to the success of the conciliation proceedings. As a rule the transfers, especially the private ones, were in favour of agriculturists. There has been a rise generally in the price of land sold by private sale, but the consideration money paid in the case of sales over the province generally is, calculated on the land revenue, less than in the previous year. In some parts, particularly in Saugor and the rice tracts of the Nagpur Division, the price of land is still depreciated, but elsewhere there are distinct signs that it is recovering its value In the cotton-juar tracts, where cultivation of recent years has been most successful, land has never commanded so high a price as at present.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

1.—LEGISLATING AUTHORITY.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY.

53. The Legislative Authority for the Central Provinces is the Council of the Governor-General of India for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations.

2.—COURSE OF LEGISLATION.

COURSE OF LEGISLATION.

54. The only Acts of the Imperial Legislature passed during the year 1902 which specifically affect the Central Provinces are—

(1) Act VI of 1902 (an Act to abolish the Pandhri tax heretofore levied in certain parts of the Central Provinces).

(2) Act XI of 1902 (an Act to make further provision for sanitation in villages in the Central Provinces).

3.—POLICE.

POLICE.

[Report on the Police Administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1902 and also Table No. VII of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1902-03.]

55. The crime of 1902 was not affected by any abnormal disturbing causes. The year was moreover on the whole much more prosperous than 1901, and as a natural consequence the total number of cognizable offences reported fell from 25,310 in 1901 to 21,532 in 1902, the lowest total of the last decade with the exception of 20,756 in 1898, the year of sharp re-action and rapid recovery from the first great famine of 1897. No district stands out from the rest as showing an abnormally large amount of crime. Sambalpur descended from the unenviable prominence it has held in this respect during recent years, and owing to the operation of the special measures lately initiated shows only 1,994 reported cognizable offences against 3,428 of 1901. **Crime.**

56. The most important of these offences are connected with coin, riots, personation of public servants, and escapes from lawful custody. The decrease in the total number of offences noticed last year was maintained during the year under report. Coining cases fell from 82 to 66, and there is reason to believe that all classes in the Central Provinces are now thoroughly alive to the danger besetting the silver currency, and that coins are habitually tested as payments are made from hand to hand. There was a slight increase in rioting cases, a natural result of the awakened interest in claims to land; but cases of rioting, personation and escape from custody were all of rare occurrence and slight importance. **Offences against the State.**

57. The total number of serious offences against the person was small, and both murders (115) and culpable homicides (42) show the smallest figures of recent years. The number of rape cases rose to 58, but as usual only a few cases stood the test of the Courts. The record of minor offences against the person is inconsiderable. **Offences against the person.**

58. The total number of offences against the person and property or against property only declined from 6,898 to 5,536, a decrease of 1,362 cases, to which the fall in burglaries contributed 1,303. Dacoities were few, the total amounting to no more than 43; and it was only in the districts of the northern and western border that real dacoity occurred. House-breakings, robberies and thefts all show unusually low figures; cattle-thefts also fell from 2,250 to 1,363, and it was only among the Chamar population of the distressed districts of Chhattisgarh and in Hoshangabad that cattle-thefts were at all common. **Offences against the person and property.**

59. The total, 4,348, was slightly higher than last year. As a result of the stricter application of the Municipal bye-laws, nuisance prosecutions through the **Offences under special Acts.**

Police showed a satisfactory decline. On the other hand there was unusual activity in prosecuting Arms Act and Excise cases, partly due to facts connected with general administration and partly to the lesser pre-occupation of the Police with ordinary crime.

General results of Police action.

60. The general results of Police action in 1902 must be regarded as satisfactory. The revised orders as to non-investigation of petty offences were in general operation throughout the year, but the percentage of cases investigated to reported remained almost stationary at 63 against 61 of last year. The number of cases reported fell from 22,168 to 18,757, while the percentages of convictions both in investigations and in decided cases are returned at 54 and 81 respectively, in both cases the same figure as in the previous year. Over the province as a whole it would seem that the newly introduced practice of non-investigation of petty crime has not so far interfered with the well-established custom of prompt reporting. Preventive action generally improved and remarkable success attended the special measures concerted to deal with professional and organised crime in the districts of Sambalpur, Saugor and Nimar. The recoveries of stolen property mainly owing to failure in four large cases have fallen off during the year, and of nearly 5 lakhs worth of property stolen only 33 per cent. was recovered as against 44 per cent. of the year before. There is good reason, however, to believe that for some years past the Central Provinces have been regularly exploited to a much greater extent than has hitherto been apprehended by gangs of professional criminals who have established their headquarters in the adjoining Native States. Previous convictions were proved against 1,294 persons in 1902, that is, against 22 per cent. of those convicted in 1902, or against 25 per cent. of those in 1901; but in view of the very great diminution in the numbers of robberies and thefts, the slight decrease is not surprising, and does not indicate that arrested professional criminals were able to conceal their whereabouts with more success than usual. The number of persons convicted for bad livelihood rose for the province as a whole excluding Sambalpur. In the latter district the special campaign against the Gandas, which resulted in 163 convictions in 1901, had had a most salutary effect, and there was only occasion for eight convictions in 1902.

Rural and Punitive Police.

61. The place of Rural Police in other Provinces is taken in the Central Provinces by the village kotwar. No Punitive Police were employed during the year under report.

Establishment.

62. There was an increase in the number of constables from 7,090 to 7,227, mainly due to the additional force recruited for the Chhindwara Jagirs and the Chanda Zamindaris. The introduction of Government Police into the Chhindwara Jagirs came into effect from the 1st January 1902 and into the Chanda Zamindaris from the 1st January 1903, but in the latter case part of the force were sent to the new posts towards the end of 1902. In consequence, the total cost of the Police rose from Rs. 14,05,357 to Rs. 14,69,453. The number of officers and men shown as actually entertained is 1,415 and 7,102 against the full sanctioned strength of 1,433 and 7,321 respectively. Nagpur, Jubbulpore, Sambalpur and Saugor show the most noticeable deficiencies of men. Recruitment is under existing conditions difficult, but it is hoped that it may soon be possible to offer greater inducement to attract suitable men into the service. The outbreak of plague in parts of the Province interfered seriously with recruitment towards the close of the year.

Discipline of the force.

63. The year's record of punishments is again heavy. The number of dismissals among officers was 9 and among constables 93 as compared with 15 and 98 in 1901. But other departmental punishments were inflicted on 439 officers and 365 men as against 392 officers and 319 men in 1901. The punishment of almost one-third of the strength of officers must be regarded as the least satisfactory feature of the year's administration, and reform in this respect is required. Rewards were given somewhat more freely, and in this the village watchman was not forgotten.

The Police Commission.

64. While the general results of the working of the Central Provinces Police must be considered satisfactory, considering the quality of the staff and the system under which they at present work, there is scope for improvement and reform in many directions. The consideration of the manner in which improvement and reform can be best effected must be deferred until the result of the deliberations of the Police Commission is known.

4.—CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

[Reports on the Judicial Administration (Criminal) of the Central Provinces for the year 1902, and Table IV of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1902 03.]

Introductory.

65. In no year in the past two decades has the number of reported cases (25,532) and cases returned as true (23,173) been so low as in 1902. Some analysis of the years record of crime will be found in the Police section of this report.

Courts of Original Jurisdiction.

66. The strength of the magistracy remained practically constant, being 376 at the beginning and 375 at the end of the year. Of the total number of persons disposed of (37,351) in the magisterial courts 2 per cent. were dealt with by District Magistrates, 61 by Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates, and 37 by Honorary Magistrates. During the year 39,000 persons were brought before the Magistrates for inquiry or on trial. The percentage of convictions fell as low as 50·7, the lowest point reached during the past decade, a result which is in part due to the nature of the offences dealt with, but also indicates beyond doubt insufficient discrimination in the issue of process.

The percentage of convictions in the Courts of District Magistrates was 72·3, of Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates 57·3, and of Honorary Magistrates 43·6. The actual number of accused persons acquitted or discharged varies little from year to year. Compensation was awarded to persons unjustly accused in 113 cases only and did not err on the side of liberality.

The despatch of business.

67. The average duration of cases continues unduly high, and so far the separation of Civil Judicial from other work does not seem to have had the effect of quickening the disposal of criminal business. The average duration of police cases is 10·4 as against 10·1 in the preceding year. The percentage of cases disposed of in one day and those disposed of in two days are 39 and 10, respectively, and 22 per cent. of cases took more than 15 days to dispose of as against 20 per cent. in 1901. The average duration of complaint cases has fallen slightly from 28·9 to 27·5 days: counting only from the date of appearance in Court, it was 15·1 as against 16·2 in the preceding year. These high durations may be to some extent due to the fact that the establishment provided on the Executive and Criminal Judicial side is not numerically strong enough for the work it has to do; but the absence of adequate supervision is no doubt a contributory cause, and special orders on the matter have recently been issued by the Judicial Commissioner. 78,724 witnesses were examined in the Magisterial Courts, of which number 70·5 per cent. were discharged on the first day, 16·9 on the second and 7·1 on the third.

The supervision of the District Magistrates hitherto has been insufficiently exercised in such matters as the treatment of frivolous complaints, the award of compensation, and the duration of trials in Subordinate Courts. With the appointment, however, of Sub-Divisional Magistrates, and the decreasing pre-occupation of District Officers, as times improve, with matters of revenue administration, it may confidently be expected that these shortcomings will disappear.

Sessions Courts.

68. The four Sessions Courts dealt with 283 persons in 161 cases, in which the percentage of convictions was 66·8. The high duration of sessions trials (70 days) emphasises the need for increase in the number of the Judges, which is much smaller than in other provinces. This is a matter which will shortly come under consideration.

Appellate and Revisional Jurisdiction.

69. District Magistrates heard 1,406 appeals affecting 1,948 persons and Sessions Judges 1,375 affecting 1,519 persons, and the Judicial Commissioner 229 affecting 236 persons. The percentages of appeals rejected remained fairly steady at 59 by District Magistrates, 78 by Sessions Judges and 83 by the Judicial Commissioner. Three appeals against orders of acquittal were preferred by the Local Government, of which two were dismissed and the third remained pending at the end of the year.

The number of cases called for by District Magistrates was 1,301. In 11 of these further enquiry was ordered and 28 were reported to the High Court.

The number of revision cases before the Judicial Commissioner rose from 224 to 280 and the number of persons concerned from 314 to 443. 51 of

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

the cases were referred, 195 dealt with on motion, and 34 called for otherwise than on motion. The sentences of 127 persons were confirmed, those of 16 reduced, those of 4 enhanced, and those of 90 reversed. In the case of 3 persons the proceedings were quashed, and in the case of 3 a new trial was ordered. The total number of death sentences referred to the Judicial Commissioner for confirmation was 22. Sentences were confirmed in the cases of 16 persons, commuted to transportation for life in those of 4, and in 2 cases the prisoners were acquitted.

Punishment.

70. As was to be expected from the character of the crime to be dealt with, punishments were as a rule lighter than the average in 1902. Sentences of death, transportation for life, and rigorous imprisonment passed by Sessions Courts numbered respectively 23, 49 and 29, while of 19,300 punished by the Magistrates 4 were sentenced to transportation, 12,349 (64 per cent.) to fine only, 1,519 (7·9 per cent.) to whipping only and 4,804 (24·9 per cent.) to imprisonment only. The corresponding percentages last year were 55·7, 7·9 and 22·2. The decrease in the number of whippings is the natural result of the decrease in offences against property. The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 1,01,332.

Public Prosecutors.

71. As the experiment of appointing Public Prosecutors for the better representation of the Crown in sessions cases was found to be a success in the Nagpur and Jubbulpore Sessions Divisions, similar appointments were made in Nerbudda and Chhattisgarh. The experiment promises to give good results.

PRISONS. 5.—PRISONS.

[Report on the Jails of the Central Provinces for the year 1902 and Table V of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1902-03.]

General.

72. The chief features of the year's history of the jails in these Provinces are the reduction in the jail population, particularly in the number of under-trial prisoners, improvement in the health and reduction in the death-rate of the prisoners generally, and better financial management.

Jail population.

73. The marked decrease in crime, coincident with the country's growing prosperity, naturally diminished the jail population. Including those remaining at the close of 1901 and those admitted in 1902, the total number of prisoners was no more than 10,267 and the average daily population 4,150, the smallest figure since the last famine. The ratio per cent. of previous convicts admitted also fell from 25 to 22, while the numbers of those able to read and write rose slightly from 6 to 10 per cent. It is satisfactory to find that the orders of the Administration regarding the treatment of juvenile offenders continue to receive attention. The number of juveniles imprisoned still further diminished from 114 to 89. Life sentences fell from 68 to 36, but the number under term transportation further increased from 15 to 25. Six females only were admitted for life transportation as against 14 in 1901. There were seven escapes, four of which, however, resulted in recapture: three other attempts at Raipur were successfully frustrated.

Jail discipline.

74. The ratio per cent. of punishments to the daily average of prisoners rose from 134 to 143. The increase was among minor punishments, the ratio of which rose from 108 to 125, while that of major punishments fell from 26·30 to 17·93. The figures for corporal punishment are practically identical with those of the past three years. There is reason to suppose that here and there corporal punishment has in the past been too freely inflicted, but the tendency has now been checked.

Health.

75. The health of the prisoners was on the whole good, the death-rate among convicts having fallen from 28·22 in the previous year to 25·32, the same practically as the provincial death-rate of the free population, which was 25·82. Malarial fevers furnished the largest number of admissions into hospital, while bowel-complaints contributed the largest number of deaths. The daily average sick ratio was 32 for convicts and 28 for under-trials. There was no overcrowding to any considerable extent, though at Balaghat, Bilaspur, Nimar and Sambalpur, the convict population was slightly in excess of barrack space. At Sambalpur the accommodation for under-trials is now being increased, and similar

improvements are about to be carried out in other jails. A special investigation was made into the sanitary conditions of the Jubbulpore Jail, the death-rate of which is still high at 40 per *mille*, about 10 per *mille* less than last year. A complete change in the diet has now been effected, and expensive structural improvements, which were unfortunately postponed owing to the violent outbreak of plague in the city, are now proceeding. The construction of isolation wards at central jails for the treatment of tubercular disease is also being undertaken and Jubbulpore is already provided with 753 new cubicles.

Jail employments.

76. Among convicts under sentence of labour the average number of those employed on working days on manufactures was 49, as prison servants 13, as prison officials 9. The cash earnings of prisoners aggregated Rs. 2,11,922, an increase of 134 per cent. over the previous year, the greater part of which must be put down to the greatly increased earnings at the three central jails. Against this must be set a decline of 40 per cent. in the profits reckoned on stock accounts and debts due, which must be attributed to the fact that most of the large jails finished the year with small stocks and large cash earnings. The tent-factory at Jubbulpore was closed, as its maintenance involved large purchases of miscellaneous stock and the writing up of numerous registers. Weaving has been substituted as a more suitable form of prison industry. Oil-pressing was worked at a loss in most district jails, and stone-breaking and aloe-pounding, which are equally penal and far less costly, will be more extensively resorted to in future for the employment of prisoners.

General administration.

77. The fall in the jail population, the low level of prices, and general improvement in management caused material reduction in the cost of maintenance, the average cost per head for which fell from Rs. 73-1-4 to Rs. 74-6-5. In both the Raipur and Nagpur Central Jails, where dieting averages last year were excessively high, the improvement is most marked. The provincial average cost of dieting charges per prisoner decreased from Rs. 36-8-5 to Rs. 28-14-0. Further improvement in financial management was assisted by the better classification of charges, and the addition to the statement of financial working of columns to show the value of plant and other details, the tabulation of which has secured greater accuracy.

Taking the cash earnings of the prisoners as a set-off against the expenditure incurred on their maintenance, the net cost per head of average strength was Rs. 58-4-0 in 1901 and Rs. 23-5-0 in 1902, or considerably less than one-half. The Nagpur and Jubbulpore Central Jails cost Government nothing to keep up during the year. The Nagpur prisoners earned just sufficient to defray the cost of their maintenance, while the prisoners in Jubbulpore not only paid for themselves, but also contributed a profit of Rs. 10,018 to Government.

The character of the jail staff has proved unsatisfactory, and exemplary punishment was in several cases meted out to untrustworthy officials. It appears that the present conditions of service are not good enough to attract the material required for an efficient warder staff. Proposals for improvement in this respect have been called for from the Inspector-General of Jails.

Separation of the Departments of Prisons and Police.

78. The experience of the past year has confirmed the opinion that the work of the two departments of Prisons and Police in this Province is now too heavy to be efficiently controlled by one officer. The two offices have been separated since the close of the year, though detailed proposals have not yet been formulated in regard to the appointment of the Inspector-General of Jails.

6.—CIVIL JUSTICE.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

[Report on the Judicial Administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1902 and Table III of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for the year 1902-03.]

Courts of Original Jurisdiction.

79. The number of suits instituted over the province increased slightly from 78,889 to 80,681, but in as many as 11 out of the 18 districts there was a decline on the figures of 1901. There were fewer rent-law cases (1 per cent.) and more suits for money and movables (69 per cent.), so that a greater proportion of the work fell to the Munsifs and less to the Tahsildars. The total value of all suits

rose from Rs. 1,04,48,204 to Rs. 1,22,70,274, and there was a substantial rise (from 76,672 to 80,622) in the number of suits disposed of, while the number pending at the close of the year (13,355) was stationary. The pending file would also have been reduced but for the large number of debt conciliation awards filed in the Bhandara Court. The diminution of the pending file in 11 out of the 18 districts and the general decrease in cases pending over 4 months point to the improvement of civil judicial business.

Execution of decrees.

80. The number of applications for the execution of decrees reached 91,572, of which 11,890 were pending at the close of the year. The figures for 1901 were 95,958 and 12,068 respectively. The aggregate amount realised rose from Rs. 11,34,033 to Rs. 12,68 880, 18·7 per cent. of the decrees being satisfied in full and 18·9 in part, while 57·2 proved wholly infructuous. The number of judgment-debtors imprisoned rose from 41 to 62, and as many as 476 judgment-debtors were arrested without being imprisoned. There were 99 applications for declaration of insolvency, of which 78 per cent. were granted. The profit on fees levied for the service and execution of processes amounted to Rs. 1,07,789. Experience has shown that little or no check over the service of processes is at present maintained by the 1st grade process-servers, and proposals are now under consideration for remedying the existing state of things by increasing the numbers and raising the pay of the checking staff, the requisite funds being found from the handsome surplus which *accrues* every year.

Courts of Appleate Jurisdiction.

81. There was a considerable increase both in the number of appeals instituted and in the number disposed of. The number of regular second appeals disposed of by the Judicial Commissioner was 500, and the number pending at the close of the year only 40, none of these having been pending over four months. Moreover, the average duration of each appeal fell from 55·6 to 47·5—a remarkable record of work.

The number of first appeals instituted in the Courts of Divisional Judges was 468 and in District Courts (including Courts of Civil Judges) 4,787, the corresponding figures for 1901 being 414 and 4,151. Divisional Judges disposed of 388 appeals; but as noticed in the review of criminal justice, until the number of these Courts is increased, the duration of cases cannot but remain high. The District Appellate Courts dealt with 5,598 appeals in all as against 4,931 in 1901, and disposed of 4,703, as many as 623 more than last year. Here the average duration fell from 76·3 to 68·2, a satisfactory result due to the fact that Civil Judges have during the year been confined to civil work, combined in a few cases with the duties of District Registrar or Treasury Officer. It may be possible in time to relieve them even of these duties. Coming to the fate of appeals, we find that the decree was confirmed in 5·17 per cent. of all cases.

General.

82. The year 1902 was the first throughout which civil judicial work was carried on by a separate staff. The separation was not complete, partly owing to the nominal occupation by Deputy Commissioners of the office of District Judge, and partly to the paucity of Munsifs, which necessitated ordinary civil work, as well as rent-law cases, being taken up by Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars. The new Munsifs' scheme, to which sanction was received towards the end of the year, has been introduced since its close, and this will, it is anticipated, make it possible to confine Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars to their proper duties. The anomaly in respect to the District Judgeships will disappear with the passing of the Central Provinces Civil Courts Bill.

REGISTRATION. 7.—REGISTRATION.

[Note on the working of the Registration Department in the Central Provinces for the year 1902 and Table IX of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1902-03.]

Number and character of documents registered.

83. The number of registrations fell during the year from 25,310 to 23,372. The decrease, which is almost entirely in documents of which registration is compulsory (from 18,763 to 17,213), is shared by nearly every district, and was most noticeable in Bhandara, Hoshangabad, Narsinghpur, Bilaspur and Sambalpur; in the three former of these districts the decrease is almost wholly in

registrations affecting immoveable property, and appears to be due to the effect of debt conciliation proceedings under which the creditor has his remedy under Section 525, Civil Procedure Code, instead of requiring the execution and registration of fresh documents to safeguard his debt.

The number of perpetual leases registered has steadily risen from 435 in 1899 to 985 in 1902. As noticed last year, in the greater number of cases these leases are of tenants' surrendered holdings and there can be no doubt that such surrenders are in effect sales of tenant right, the landlord and the tenant sharing the premium paid by the incoming tenant. Landlords and tenants doubtless look on this as a simple method of evading the provisions of the Tenancy Act, and such cases will probably continue to increase until the heirs of surrendering tenants awake to their own interests and take action under Section 36 of the Tenancy Act; in such case the mere fact of registration would not validate the lease.

The number of orders filed under Section 89 of the Act fell rapidly in the case of orders under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, which dropped from 25,471 to 7,053, the Balaghat District alone accounting for a decrease of 12,280. This remarkable fall is to a great extent explained by the recent change of system whereby such loans are granted on the joint security of a number of tenants, so that the hypothecation of immoveable property is not required.

Value and nature of transfers.

84. The total value of the property affected by deeds registered declined from Rs. 91,01,075 to Rs. 89,59,033 or in approximately the same ratio as the number of registrations. The average value per deed registered fell from Rs. 420 to Rs. 400. With regard to the transfer of proprietary rights it is satisfactory to find that sales and mortgages have both decreased to an equal extent, and that though the money-lenders have taken more mortgages the greater proportion of the sales have been in favour of agriculturists.

The administration of the Department.

85. The number and class of Registration offices remained the same as in 1901. The fact that against 258 refusals to register there were only 60 appeals, of which 16 were not upheld, speaks well for the efficiency of the staff. Consequent on the decrease in the number of registrations effected, the gross receipts fell from Rs. 96,309 to Rs. 91,823, and the net receipts from Rs. 49,122 to Rs 43,380. Eight head offices and the three sub-offices of Sakoli, Tirora and Seoni-Malwa were worked at a loss, but in the case of the latter three the loss was slight and their existence is more than justified. The inspection work done by the Inspectors of Registration Offices of both circles was most satisfactory. The system of taking thumb-mark impressions for purposes of identification has remained in force in all offices, and is now well understood by all Registrars and their clerks.

8.—MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION.

[Resolution on the working of the Municipal Committees of the Central Provinces for the year 1902-03, and Table XVII-1, 2-L, 3-L, and 4 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1902-03.]

Number and constitution of municipalities.

86. The number of Municipalities in the Central Provinces at the close of the year 1902-03 was 46. The increase of one as compared with the previous year was due to the establishment of a Municipality at Pulgaon in the Wardha District. The only noticeable change in the constitution of Committees is the increase in nominated members, which was due to the fact that at Pulgaon all the members were, on the creation of a Municipal Committee at that town, appointed by nomination. Change in the status of Municipalities, which have been established in villages where they are not needed, was deferred pending the passing of the new Municipal Act, and will now be taken up. At Raipur and at Sambalpur, consequent on the removal of troops from those places, the Cantonment area came under the management of the Municipal Committee, and at Sambalpur a suburb hitherto outside Municipal limits was brought within them.

Income.

87. The total income of all the Municipalities excluding opening balance was Rs. 16,26,754 against Rs. 15,79,409 in the preceding year, showing an increase of Rs. 47,345. About half the total income is derived from octroi, which is the financial mainstay of all important Municipalities and is in force in 25 out of the 46. Partly as the effect of the orders of the Government of India fixing a limit for the taxation of various classes of articles and partly owing to

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION.

the presence of plague, there was a general decline in octroi receipts, the only important Municipalities which did not share in it being Raipur, Bilaspur and Harda. The total receipts from octroi fell from Rs. 8,82,470 to Rs. 8,33,123. Since the close of the year orders have been received from the Government of India relaxing to some extent the restrictions imposed on the levy of octroi, and there is no doubt that these will be received as a boon in the large towns, like Nagpur and Jubbulpore.

Except in Raipur water-rates were realized satisfactorily. Owing to the briskness of trade consequent on good harvests the receipts from market dues rose in many places, rents from lands added over Rs. 5,000, and a new tax on animals and vehicles in Nagpur over Rs. 9,000. On the other hand the decline of nearly Rs. 7,000 in conservancy taxation, which is common to all divisions, marks the effect of the outbreak of plague in several towns which were largely deserted by their inhabitants towards the close of the year.

Expenditure.

88. The total expenditure was Rs. 17,01,296 against Rs. 15,27,008 in 1901-02, an increase of about 10 per cent. To this excess the capital outlay on water-supply contributed Rs. 69,000, and expenditure on hospitals Rs. 50,000. Water-supply schemes were in progress at Seoni and Harda, and the large water-works at Ambajheri near Nagpur were improved by the addition of more powerful machinery. The heavy expenditure under the head "Hospitals" again marks the presence of plague. The increase under "Markets and slaughter-houses" was due to the construction of new slaughter-houses. Refunds of octroi fell from Rs. 2,52,294 to Rs. 2,41,926, the fall being most marked in Nagpur, where it is attributed to plague and to the reduction of rates in some of the most important articles of supply.

General.

89. Except in Jubbulpore, Bhandara and Saugor, the financial position of all Municipalities is sound. At Jubbulpore the outbreak of plague was very virulent, and the resources of the Municipality were much strained to meet the unusual expenditure. The year ended with a deficit of Rs. 19,377, which had to be recouped by a grant from Government. Saugor also received a Government grant of Rs. 12,674, but a thorough overhauling of every department of municipal business during the year has much improved the finances of the Municipality, while at Bhandara the position can be saved by careful economy in all forms of public works during the current year. All Municipalities, except Jubbulpore, which have taken Government loans, have duly paid their annual instalments. Apart from the improvements to water-supply above mentioned, the drainage scheme in Sambalpur was pushed forward and is now nearing completion. Elsewhere want of funds has stood in the way of large measures of improvement. Some confusion in administration was caused in some of the most important towns by the fact that Committee members were often the first to desert their posts on the appearance of plague, but on the whole the working of the Committees was satisfactory, and the relations between Government officers and Municipal bodies continued excellent.

DISTRICT COUNCILS, &c.

9.—DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS.

[Report on the working of the District Councils and Local Boards for 1902-03 and Table XVIII of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1902-03.]

Number and constitution.

90. For years past the internal economy of 17 out of the 18 districts of the Central Provinces has been regulated by a District Council. There was no change during the year, and Mandla alone remains without a Council. The number of Local Boards, however, was raised from 54 to 55 by the creation of the Chhindwara Jagir Board, which came into existence from 1st April 1902, and is represented on the District Council by the two Jagirdars of Harai and Sonpur, respectively. The Phuljhar Zamindari was transferred from the Southern Zamindari to the Bargarh Local Board, and changes in the constitution of the other Zamindari Boards in Chhattisgarh have also been effected, but except in Bilaspur the new constitution did not come into force till after the close of the year. Including the members of the new Local Board, the total number of members was 1,219 against 1,213 last year.

Attendance

91. Every District Council held at least the prescribed number of meetings, namely, four, and the majority of the Local Boards also reached the minimum number of eight meetings. The Chhattisgarh Zamindari Boards, with two exceptions, failed to hold any meetings at all, but it is hoped that with the change of constitution introduced from the current year Zamindars will be induced to look after their own interests better.

Income.

92. The total income, including opening balance, rose from Rs. 11,59,289 to Rs. 14,80,095. The increase is common to all districts except Nimar and Bilaspur, and is in a large measure due to the special grants made for the construction and repair of school buildings and for the improvement of the pay of teachers in Board Schools. In Nimar the fall is more in the nature of a return to the normal, as the previous year's receipts were much swelled by large realizations of arrears of famine cesses. Both in Raipur and Bilaspur, where the rice crop partially failed, there was a considerable decrease in the receipts from Provincial Rates owing to large suspensions and remissions of cesses. Pound income fell by Rs. 14,206. Owing to insufficient rain in some districts, large areas of culturable land were left free for grazing purposes, and fewer cattle were impounded. The dryness of the season again affected ferry receipts, which also decreased owing to the abolition of a number of petty ferries and the transfer of the rest to the management of the Public Works Department.

Expenditure.

93. Expenditure went up with a bound from Rs. 8,80,000 to Rs. 11,95,000, chiefly owing to the largely increased outlay on both education (Rs. 4,18,501) and communications. The large expenditure on education was rendered possible by the liberality of the Government of India in providing a special grant for the purpose. As a result large numbers of new primary schools have been constructed, and it has been found possible to raise the pay of all qualified teachers to a minimum of Rs. 10 per mensem. Most of the expenditure on Civil Works was devoted to the improvement of communications carried out through the agency of the Public Works Department. Comparatively little was done in the way of improvement of village sanitation except in Nagpur and Bhandara, where considerable sums were spent on well construction, and in Bilaspur, where as much as Rs. 7,000 was privately expended on the same object. A special grant has, however, been made after the close of the year in order to help forward the improvement of village water-supply.

Special features of the year's working.

94. The financial position of all Councils was sound during the year except in the case of Bhandara, where a temporary deficit was caused by short realizations of cesses and heavy expenditure on public works, but here also equilibrium has been restored by a provincial grant after the close of the year. An extensive provincialization of roads was arranged during the year, and with effect from 1st April 1903 all expenditure on Civil Works carried out by the Public Works Department will be shown under the head "Contribution," so that in future the expenditure on Civil Works will be restricted to what is spent by Civil Officers. Some advance was made in the direction of awakening the interest of Local Board members by extending their functions and authority, and with this object in view their services and those of School Committees were utilized under professional direction for the construction of most of the special grant schools. It is too early at present to pronounce on the success of this experiment. It has also been decided, in order to encourage out-door activity, to reduce the minimum number of compulsory meetings of Local Boards from eight to six.

10.—MILITARY (VOLUNTEERING).

MILITARY.

Number of active corps.

95. There are only 2 Volunteer Corps in the Central Provinces—the Nagpur Rifles and the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Rifles.

The Nagpur Volunteer Rifles.

96. The enrolled strength of the Nagpur Volunteer Rifles on the 31st March 1903 was 590 (all ranks), 5 more than last year. Among 19 officers and 571 non-commissioned officers and men 566 were extra-efficient, 16 efficient, and only 8 non-efficient. The number of marksmen was 229; there is no Reserve. The financial position of the Corps is satisfactory, and the year ended with a balance in hand of Rs. 6,727, as compared with Rs. 5,406 in 1902.

The Bengal-Nagpur Railway Volunteer Rifles.

97. The enrolled strength of the Railway Rifles is 1,107 (all ranks). There are 33 officers and 127 non-commissioned officers. Among the 1,092 Extra-efficients were 492 first-class shots, and 600 marksmen. There were only 5 Efficients and 10 Non-Efficients. There is no Reserve. In February 1903, the Railway Rifles held a camp of exercise at Bilaspur, at which 526 of all ranks were present. The operations extended for 10 miles east and west of Bilaspur Junction and for some distance up the Katni Branch line.

The Bengal-Nagpur Railway now extends over 2,000 miles o fcountry, and the Corps is too large and too scattered to be worked satisfactorily from one head-quarters. It has therefore been decided recently to divide the Corps into two Battalions containing four companies each. The first Battalion will have its head-quarters at Khargpur, and the second at Nagpur. This division, however, has not yet been completely effected. The financial position of the Corps is sound, but a large grant will be necessary for the construction of various new buildings at Khargpur and elsewhere.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

1.—AGRICULTURE.

[Report on the Department of Agriculture, the Civil Veterinary Department, and the Nagpur Experimental Farm in the Central Provinces for the year 1902-03; also Volume of Agricultural Statistics of British India for 1902-03.]

General.

98. The Department of Agriculture in the Central Provinces is still in its infancy. For many years the Experimental Farm and Agricultural School at Nagpur constituted the main field of its labours. The Department has, however, been largely developed during the past two years, and agricultural experiments on a most comprehensive scale have been undertaken all over the province. The staff has been largely strengthened, two additional Experimental Farms have been established, Demonstration Farms have been started, the District Agricultural Associations and the Hindi Agricultural Gazette have come into existence, while agricultural education has been strengthened by the starting of the Malguzari section of the Nagpur Agricultural School, and by the association of the Patwari staff in the teaching of agricultural and kindred subjects in village schools. The yearly report shows on the whole most satisfactory progress in the development of these improvements.

Nagpur Experimental Farm.

99. The year's rainfall was short, hardly more than half the average, but very well distributed for agricultural requirements. Rice was somewhat damaged, and tur was destroyed by caterpillars, but other kharif crops, notably cotton and juar, gave excellent yields. All the rabi crops yielded outturns considerably above the average.

Agricultural experiments of various kinds continued. Experiments with manures again showed cattle-dung to be the best general manure. Saltpetre has also given good results, more particularly when applied as a top-dressing. Green manuring has also been very successful.

The scope of the farm work in testing different varieties of crops has been much enlarged. The most important experiments were made with cotton (93 varieties), juar (57 varieties) and wheat (153 varieties). These included varieties grown in the Central Provinces and in other parts of India, and also American, Egyptian and Sea Island cottons, and Australian wheats. The general conclusions deducible seem to be that greater success and a wider field of usefulness are promised by the improvement of native varieties and the cultivation of indigenous hybrids than by the introduction of foreign exotics. The new experiments in producing a rust-resisting wheat had hardly a fair chance owing to the dry nature of the year, but the hybrid wheat (hauria mundia-pissi) used for the experiment has gained a very good reputation as a strong and prolific variety. Interesting experiments have also been begun in the way of improved hybrid cottons. The Sewage Farm now shows a handsome profit, and its success will, it is hoped, induce other Municipalities to take up the question of the profitable disposal of their sewage. The neighbouring farm at Telinkheri has also much improved and well fulfils its object of raising seed of new and improved varieties of crops for distribution.

New Experimental Farms.

100. The two new Experimental Farms are at Hoshangabad and Raipur, respectively. The former will be devoted chiefly to wheat and other rabi staples, while the latter will be mainly concerned with the improvement of rice cultivation, thus leaving the Nagpur institution to deal more exclusively with the locally important staples of cotton and juar. The area acquired is 89·10 acres at Raipur and 127·25 acres at Hoshangabad. The past season has been occupied in getting some of the land into culturable condition, in embanking fields, digging irrigation wells, erecting farm buildings, and the like. Proposals for the farm establishments have been sanctioned, and cultivation has been started during the current season.

AGRICULTURE.

Demonstration Farms.

101. The object of Demonstration Farms is to give practical illustrations at selected local centres of improved methods of agriculture. Five farms of this kind were established during the year under report for the purpose of introducing experimentally the cultivation of juar and cotton into the rice tracts of Chhattisgarh, where the results obtained were successful except in water-logged flat black cotton soil. In the Feudatory States of Nandgaon and Khairagarh the four Demonstration Farms inaugurated last year proved a financial success. The States themselves have now started similar farms, and have induced many cultivators to sow cotton. In the Hoshangabad District five farms were started with a view of pushing the use of the seed-drill and of weeding with the bullock-hoe in substitution of the prevailing careless method of sowing broadcast. Experiments in ensilage were also made in Bilaspur and Hoshangabad with conspicuous success, and it is noticeable that in Hoshangabad the *kans* grass, which has for years been the scourge of the black cotton soils of the northern districts of the province, has been used as a material.

The demonstrations of the advantages of chopping up juar stalks as fodder have led to practical results in the Nagpur and Wardha Districts, where 23 machines for this purpose have been ordered. The attempts to introduce improvements in the extraction and evaporation of sugar and the Meagher system of sewage disposal have not been attended with similar success, but in the latter case the remarkable results achieved at Nagpur show what profit Municipalities can derive from this system, if they will only give it a fair trial. Experiments have been made in various methods suggested for exterminating grasshoppers both by trawling, which has already given fairly successful results in the case of rice, and otherwise: also in the eradication of smut from juar by pickling the seed in a solution of sulphate of copper. The latter experiments have been carried out on a most comprehensive scale through 1,858 villages in the fields of 9,977 cultivators in the Nagpur and Wardha Districts. Last year smut was not prevalent in juar, so that the object-lesson was not very prominent, but the demonstrations will continue during the current season.

Miscellaneous experiments.

102. An interesting series of experiments was made in the digging of *kachha* wells below the beds of tanks in Chhattisgarh with a view to testing their utility for rice irrigation in years of scanty rainfall. The results varied widely, but seemed to prove that such wells will be of the greatest service to the rice crop in years of slight rainfall.

The extension to lower parts of the Nerbudda Valley of the method of field embankment for rabi crops practised in the Jubbulpore District proceeds, but it is as yet too early to judge of the results.

The number of crop-cutting experiments made during the year was 1,157 as against 938 in the previous year, 855 being made with kharif and 302 with rabi crops. Numerous experiments have been made with the object of ascertaining the outturns of each individual crop in fields sown with mixtures.

Agricultural and Industrial Associations.

103. The Agricultural and Industrial Associations formed in each district for the development of its agricultural and industrial resources have generally made a good start. A considerable quantity of seed of new and improved varieties, likely to suit the district, has been distributed to members, who will report the result of their trials. In this way much has been done towards bringing the Department into touch with the leading agriculturists of the province.

The Nagpur Agricultural School.

104. Five endowments have been presented to the Nagpur Agricultural School in the past two years, which is strong testimony to the interest taken in it by the public.

The School generally has suffered from the presence of plague at Nagpur. The English Class has been handicapped by the defective general education of the students and want of zeal in the teachers. The instruction in the Normal Class for teachers has been concentrated and made more practical. The Malguzari Class, intended to give practical agricultural training to the sons of landowners and other professional cultivators, has been in existence for a short time only, but gives fair promise of success.

Agricultural Education in Primary Schools.

105. Great progress has been made in adapting the system of primary education more closely to the needs of the agricultural population by improving the arrangements for teaching the use of the village map and land records, the nature of the village soils, and the native system of accounts. Village patwaris now give

assistance in the instruction of the subjects connected with their profession. School gardens are a prominent feature of many schools and an "Arbor Day" has been instituted to encourage the planting of trees.

The Hindi Agricultural Gazette.

106. The publication of the Hindi Agricultural Gazette has proved a great success. The number of copies issued on payment has risen from 1,044 last year to 1,823 this, and in addition free copies are issued to 344 official and 200 non-official gentlemen. The total circulation has thus risen to 2,367 copies, and has been supplemented by a book of selected extracts from the first year's monthly issues, published separately. Ten leaflets on various agricultural subjects have also been published during the year.

Veterinary Department.

107. The development of the veterinary institutions and staff of the Province, though sorely needed in view of the wide prevalence of rinderpest and other forms of cattle-disease, is hampered by want of funds and the apathy of individual members of local bodies. One new dispensary has, however, been opened during the year at Seoni; and the amount of touring done by Veterinary Officers shows some improvement, and should show more now that the fixed peripatetic allowance has been replaced by travelling allowance under the ordinary rules of the Civil Service Regulations. The present scale of remuneration to officers of the department appears insufficient to secure competent men and, with the object of rendering the service more attractive, proposals for a pension scheme have been framed, and District Councils are now being consulted. With a view to improve the training of the staff the sanction of the Government of India has been recently obtained to candidates being trained for three years at Lahore instead of for two years at Ajmere. Similarly, with a view to obtaining the services of a better class of compounders at Veterinary Dispensaries, the Commissioner of Settlements has submitted proposals for a scheme for the training and examination of candidates for the post of compounder and for improving and grading their pay. This scheme also is under consideration by District Councils, whose opinions are awaited.

The Government of India have recently accepted the opinion of the Local Administration that the Central Provinces are unsuited for horse and mule-breeding operations. The attempt to breed horses and mules has therefore been finally abandoned, and the money saved therefrom will be devoted to cattle-breeding. The Telinkheri Cattle-breeding Farm at Nagpur has made an excellent start with the local "Gaolao" breed, and since the close of the year the Officiating Chief Commissioner has sanctioned the establishment of a second farm at Hoshangabad for the "Malvi" breed. The object of these farms is to provide a supply of pure-bred bulls which will be handed over to selected landlords subject to certain conditions, including responsibility for their keep and the exclusion of other uncastrated bulls from the village herd. The scheme for the improvement of cattle-breeding by the award of prizes at cattle fairs has proved a failure, and it seems probable that the grant of Rs. 1,000 made by the Government of India for these prizes can be spent with greater advantage on the cattle farms.

Live stock.

108. In spite of the wide prevalence of cattle-disease and the absence of adequate means to combat it, the number of live stock in the Province shows a substantial increase, which is most marked in the Jubbulpore Division. There is a decrease in Bhandara, Balaghat and Chanda which is ascribed to failure of the rice crop and insufficiency of fodder and water, but it is satisfactory to find that the number of plough-cattle has increased considerably in all Divisions.

The planting of mahua trees.

109. Numbers of mahua trees were killed by the drought of 1899, and as no attempt is made by the villagers to plant out young mahua seedlings, it seems only a question of time for many villagers to lose a most valuable addition to their food supplies. In order to stimulate re-production, efforts are being made through the District Revenue Staff to secure the planting of mahua trees in waste land suitable to their growth. Local bodies have been asked to co-operate, and in some districts a beginning has been made in the raising of seedlings in Public gardens and District Council nurseries for free distribution to cultivators.

2.—WEATHER AND CROPS.

[Season and Crop Report of the Central Provinces for the year 1902-03, and Tables 1-K., 2-K., 3-K., 4-K., 5-H., 6-K., 7-H. and 13-K. of the Agricultural Statistics of British India for 1902-03.]

The rain.

110. The rainfall in the month of June was in considerable defect throughout the Province. The regular monsoon did not set in until the beginning of July, although some earlier showers allowed sowings to commence in June in the southern districts. Moderate to heavy rain fell in July. The rain in August was again in large defect. Early in the month a retreat of the monsoon occasioned a prolonged break ; but in the middle of the month came a welcome burst of rain, which improved the situation and removed some of the anxiety which the break had caused. Good general rain was received in the latter part of the month. The monsoon came to an end in the south of the Province very early in September and elsewhere in the first week of October. In the northern districts the September rainfall was well distributed and in excess of the average, but in the Southern and Satpura districts the deficiency was very marked. At the close of October and in the first few days of November heavy rain fell again in the north and west of the Province, whilst only very light showers were received in the south and east. The monsoon rainfall thus commenced late, was light throughout its period, and in the southern districts ceased extraordinarily early. Light rain fell in December in the south and west of the Province, but there was practically no rain in the north and east. A few scattered showers fell in January and February. There was no rain in March. In April a few showers were received in the south and east of the Province. In May thunder-storms gave rain throughout the Province generally in excess of the average for that month. The total rainfall of the year was thus very considerably short, the provincial average being as low as 37·33 as against 50·02 inches, the average of the past 35 years. Nimar is the only district in which the rainfall exceeded the average.

Character of the season.

111. As the result of this short and uneven rainfall the agricultural history of the year has been one of remarkable diversity, varying from severe failure in some parts of the country to one of the best years on record in others. The late arrival of the monsoon inevitably delayed the sowings of all kharif crops. The subsequent light falls suited cotton and juar, but were quite insufficient for rice. The embanked rice fields did not fill with water, in consequence of which transplanting became impossible and the broadcast crop languished. As a result of the early cessation of the rains in the south of the Province, the rice crop was a failure and other kharif crops somewhat suffered Moreover, the light soils became too dry for rabi sowings, whilst even in heavy soils germination was partly defective and the early growth of the plants was arrested. The prospects were thus gloomy at the start, but were much improved by some good cold-weather showers. In the northern districts the heavy storm at the end of October and beginning of November did some damage to the ripening kharif crops, but this was more than compensated by the advantage to the early sown rabi crops and by the prolongation of the sowing season. The cold-weather showers were also very good, being heavy enough to benefit the growing plants without causing rust. The winter was exceptionally cold with sharp frosts, which caused some damage.

Yield of the autumn (kharif) crops.

112. *Rice.*—The predominant feature of the autumn season is the severe failure of the rice crop in the southern districts. The outturns of both transplanted and broadcast rice were very small. The yield was less than one-third of the normal in the important rice tracts of Chanda, Bhandara, Balaghat, Seoni and Raipur. Bilaspur fared rather better with a yield of three-fifths of the normal, whilst Sambalpur, which lies in the track of the Bengal current did still better with a yield of three-fourths of the normal. There were apprehensions of a severe famine in the worst tracts, where rice is all important, but the people showed more staying power than was first anticipated, with the result that famine relief operations were necessary on a comparatively small scale in Raipur, Bilaspur, Bhandara and Balaghat only. Rice fared much better in the northern districts ; Mandla obtained a bumper crop, whilst the yield in Damoh, Narsinghpur and Betul was but little below the normal. The area sown was 8 per cent. below the normal and the yield only 49 per cent. of a normal crop.

Cotton.—The increased facilities for export given by the extension of railway communication and the light September rainfall of the past few seasons has caused a remarkable expansion of cotton cultivation not only in the regular cotton growing country, but in many fresh tracts bordering the railway. The area put under cotton last year was the largest ever recorded, and no less than 66 per cent. above the decennial average. The sowings last year were successfully carried out everywhere. The light rainfall during the early period of the monsoon facilitated weeding, and though the plants here and there began to wither during the break early in August, they revived in the rain that fell later in the month, and the fine weather at the close of September was very beneficial. Later the heavy rain in the northern districts damaged the plants in flower, and in the south the almost continuous drought accompanied by cloudy weather caused the withering of immature bolls. However, most of the central and northern districts reaped crops well up to the normal, but in the important cotton-juar tracts of Nagpur and Wardha the yield was 5 to 10 per cent. below, so that the yield of the whole Province worked out to 94 per cent. of the normal.

Til.—Both the early and late til (*sesamum*) were affected in much the same degree as the cotton, and the general outturn reached 96 per cent. of the normal.

Juar.—Juar, in addition to cotton, reached a record area, and the cold-weather variety, known as ringni, grown in the south-west is also expanding. The crop suffered during the long break in August, but the good rain that fell in the latter part of the month checked further deterioration. Full crops were obtained in the north and west and normal in the central districts. In Wardha, Bhandara, and Balaghat, however, the yields were 25 to 50 per cent. below the normal, but the yield for the whole Province still reaches 99 per cent. of the normal.

Arhar.—Arhar (*Cajanus Indicus*), which is usually grown as a mixture with juar, was continuously damaged by cloudy weather, frosts, caterpillars and fungoid disease. The yield was nowhere good, and for the whole Province fell to 31 per cent. of the normal.

Kodon and Kutki.—The smaller millets, kodon and kutki, gave a yield of 90 per cent. over an area 4 per cent. below the normal.

Yield of the spring (rabi) crops.

113. The season was unfavourable to rabi crops in Chanda, Bhandara, Balaghat and the Chhattisgarh Districts owing to the failure here of the late rains, but with the very different conditions of the north and west, they fared much better, although sown generally over contracted areas.

Wheat.—In the northern districts the wheat crop was the best reaped during the past 10 years, and, but for some damage by frost and insects, would have given a heavy bumper crop. In the south and east, however, the outturns reached only 50 per cent. in Raipur and 55 in Bhandara and Balaghat. For the Province as a whole the outturn was 115, a figure which is 70 and 38 per cent. respectively above the averages of the previous 5 and 10 years.

Gram.—Gram suffered more than wheat from frost, and some damage was also done by caterpillars. The total yield reached 87 per cent. of the normal.

Linseed.—Linseed again proved its reputation as an uncertain crop. The outturn was particularly poor in the eastern districts, and varied considerably in the others. The provincial outturn worked out to 90 per cent.

Owing to the peculiar conditions of the rabi sowing season cultivators hesitated to risk the more valuable crops, and the areas under wheat, gram and linseed accordingly decreased 11, 12 and 19 per cent. respectively, while those under the minor and more hardy spring crops—masur (*ervum lens*), lakh (*lathyrus sativus*), urad and mung (*phaseolus mungo*)—all expanded.

The yield of the year.

114. The total yield of 1902-03 may be roughly estimated by taking into consideration not only the outturn of the area actually sown during the year, but also the proportion which that area bears to the normal cropped area, which may be fairly taken to be the average of the years 1891 to 1895 previous to the first severe famine. This method forms a rough guide only, as it does not take into account the relative value of the different crops. Calculating in this way, the districts that secured bumper yields are Mandla, Nimar, Chhindwara and

WEATHER AND CROPS.

Sambalpur. Damoh, Betul and Nagpur were slightly above, and Narsinghpur, Hoshangabad, Saugor and Jubbulpore slightly below the normal. In Bilaspur (71) and Chanda (78) the yields were poor, while the districts that suffered most keenly were Bhandara (30), Balaghat (33), and Raipur (36). Taking the Province as a whole, the outturn of the year was 82 per cent. of the normal and shows a recovery as compared with the outturn (69 per cent.) of the year previous.

HORTICULTURE.

3.—HORTICULTURE.

[Report on the management of the District Gardens in the Central Provinces for the year 1902-03.]

The season.

115. The season was on the whole unfavourable to horticulture. The monsoon rainfall was deficient, and the good effect of timely winter rain in some districts was more than counterbalanced by very severe frosts.

The gardens of the Province.

116. The Provincial gardens include the Maharaj Bagh, Telenkheri and Government-house gardens at Nagpur, and the Public and Residency gardens at Pachmarhi, while gardens are also maintained under Government management at 15 district head-quarters.

Provincial gardens.

117. The Nagpur gardens, considering the natural disadvantages of the year, did fairly well with fruit, but failed almost entirely with vegetables. Considerable improvement was effected at Pachmarhi, whither the former Telenkheri Overseer has been transferred, and the larger demand which exists there during the hotter months for vegetables, fruit, and flowers was met much more successfully during the past season. The Telenkheri garden is now irrigated by pipes, and a new irrigation channel has also been constructed at Pachmarhi; while in the Maharaj Bagh a new fernery and plant-house have been made, and a new rose-garden laid out near the tiger-house.

The District gardens.

118. The unfavourable season worked with uniform effect over the whole Province, and everywhere the yields of fruit and vegetables were poor. Flowers on the other hand for the most part did extremely well, and the Provincial Camp at Delhi was liberally supplied with cut flowers from nearly all districts.

The financial results are even less encouraging than those of last year, except in Balaghat, Hoshangabad, Narsinghpur and Chhindwara. Owing to the poor yield of fruit and vegetables, there is a general falling off in receipts, especially noticeable in the Provincial gardens at Nagpur and the District garden at Seoni. The prevalence of plague has also contributed to the decrease in the receipts of the Provincial gardens. While receipts have decreased, expenditure has in many cases increased, particularly in the Maharaj Bagh, Chhindwara and Wardha. In the District gardens the total receipts aggregated only Rs. 5,613 against an expenditure of Rs. 13,647, so that the net cost of maintaining the gardens was Rs. 8,034 as compared with Rs. 5,398 last year. There is room for improvement in the financial management of several gardens, and the Commissioner of Settlements and Agriculture has pointed out that the raising of crops of native vegetables and fruits, which find a ready sale in the bazaars, should not be neglected to supply the very limited demand for European vegetables.

The total stock of fruit trees and other plants rose from 17,323 at the beginning to 23,249 at the end of the year, but good results in stock raising were only obtained in three districts, and in consequence very little could be done in the way of distribution of seeds and plants to cultivators. A new scheme, started by the Director of Public Instruction, for the institution of an Arbor Day on which trees will be planted by the boys at all schools, provides in future a wider agency for distribution. Here and there encouraging results were achieved in the way of experimental cultivation of new and improved varieties of garden crops, such as the American sweet-potato and the Jaunpore variety of maize.

Court of Wards gardens.

119. The number of Court of Wards gardens is increasing, though slowly, and in the Chanda, Wardha and Hoshangabad Districts they are becoming useful subsidiary agencies to the District gardens as centres of distribution and demonstration.

4.—FORESTS.

[Report on the Forest administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1902-03.]

Classification of the Forest areas.

120. The classification of the forest areas on the 30th June 1902 was as follows:—A class, 14,469 square miles; B-I class, 2,429; B-II class, 1,999; and unclassed areas, 7 square miles. The B-II class area was the same as last year, but B-I class and the unclassed forests have lost 19 and 138 miles, respectively, mostly by transfer of areas to the A class reserve, which has gained 138 miles. The aggregate forest area is now 18,904 square miles, 5 less than last year. Some small areas were disforested for cultivation in Nagpur, Raipur and Seoni, but as much as 10,275 acres in Nimar. The demand for land for cultivation is keen in Nimar, but though large areas are available there, they are often remote from existing cultivation; the present classification of reserved forest in this district is therefore now under revision.

Survey and demarcation.

121. Two detachments of the Forest Surveys completed field surveys over 313 square miles, 223 in Chanda and the rest in Mandla: and in Chanda 211 miles of boundary were also surveyed. Good progress has also been made in mapping, especially in Chanda, Bilaspur, Hoshangabad, Betul and Mandla. Moreover, 70 miles of boundary were artificially demarcated during the year, and repairs carried out for another length of 17,894 miles, and the total length of artificially marked boundary had reached at the close of the year 23,521 miles. Apart from natural boundary, there remains only a stretch of 140 miles in the whole Province for which artificial marks have still to be provided.

The progress made in the scientific working of the forests.

122. The preparation of working-plans has now been stopped in forests where, owing to the absence of the demand for material, it is impossible to give effect to the operations prescribed by the plans. No new plans were sanctioned during the year in the Southern Circle, and in the Northern only the plan of the Betul District, which carries retrospective effect from 1897-98. However, the compilation of working-plans previously in progress proceeded over 249 square miles in four districts, and there remains now only 2,062 square miles for which plans have still to be taken in hand, and of this area 1,658 miles are in one district—Chanda.

Little road-making was done, only 52 miles of road and path being constructed, while Rs. 6,597 were spent in repairs. In order, however, to facilitate fire conservancy and other protective measures, the building of rest-houses and subordinates' quarters was pushed on, and as much as Rs. 26,000 was spent on construction and repairs. In the result, forest offences were more promptly dealt with, and the total number of cases disposed of reached 5,700 as against 3,945 the preceding year. The increase is, however, entirely contributed by the Damoh District, where 1,964 cases of illicit grazing were detected as compared with 40 only the year before. But the better supervision is manifested by the fact that the convictions in court for the more serious offences rose from 155 to 210.

The fire-season was a long one, the rains ceasing early and commencing late, but was otherwise favourable to fire-protection, owing to the fact that high winds were not so prevalent as usual. Conservancy operations met with much the same satisfactory measure of success as during the previous year. Systematic protection with fire-lines and a special staff of watchers was successfully extended to an area of 3,265,063 acres, and a further area of 1,986,638 was also partially protected with success. In proportion to the work done the total expenditure, Rs. 59,500, was much the same as last year. In the north the cost per square mile of systematic protection fell from Rs. 10 to Rs. 9-3-11, but in the south the longer and drier season caused a slight rise to Rs. 10-7-9 as against Rs. 10-1-0 the previous year.

In all 2,680 square miles were closed and 8,342 open to the grazing of all animals, the total grazing receipts realizing Rs. 3,54,896. The receipts last year were Rs. 6,000 more, but they were drawn from an area 580 square miles larger. The forests in all districts are still suffering from the effects of drought, and the quality of the seeding and natural reproduction have both been poor. In

the Northern Circle also the severe frosts of December and January did great damage, especially to the low lying forests. Sal fruited only fairly well, but teak, mahua, achar and harra for the most part did poorly. The year was not favourable to sylvicultural operations, and little could be done to increase the area of plantations, except in Chanda and Saugor, where 12,270 and 219 acres were added, respectively. Experiments for the encouragement of lac and tassar silk cultivation continued, but owing to the want of sufficient rain and untimely frosts little progress was made during the year. Another experiment, however, that of preparing rusa oil from the grass, gave promising results.

Actual operations of the year.

123. Selection fellings continued on a considerable scale in the districts of Balaghat, Mandla and Jubbulpore, the fellings being converted into narrow-gauge sleepers for supply to the Satpura railway, which accepted 132,364 sleepers from Balaghat, 126,701 from Mandla, and 31,753 from Jubbulpore. The percentage rejected by the Railway was $3\frac{1}{2}$ only. Chanda and Jubbulpore also sent supplies of teak logs to the Jubbulpore gun factory, and Narsinghpur provided 8,640 saj pit-props to the Mohpani coal mine.

The total outturn, in cubic feet, of timber from all forests was 258,291 logs, 1,724,725 poles, 283,637 pieces of sawn timber, and 261,241 miscellaneous. The corresponding figures for last year were 469,113, 1,831,156, 175,244 and 54,358, respectively, so that this year the saw was busier than last. The demand for fuel was very brisk owing to the improved purchasing capacity of all classes, and nearly 15 million cubic feet of fuel was removed by purchasers as compared with 11,440,000 last year. The right to cut grass is generally sold by auction, but this year the Department was able to supply considerable quantities to the cartmen employed on the sleeper works.

The number of bamboos cut and removed considerably decreased, chiefly owing to a fall of 852,696 in the number removed in the Southern Circle, caused by the heavy increase in the rates for green bamboos necessitated by the general dying out of the common bamboo in the Chanda District. The year's crop of harra was a poor one, and attempts to lease the collections to traders failed, so that the revenue from this source decreased by some Rs. 20,000. In all the total value of minor forest produce removed or utilized by Government, by purchasers and by free grantees fell from Rs. 6,88,000 last year to Rs. 6,31,000 this.

Financial results.

124. The gross receipts for the Southern Circle amounted to Rs. 6,94,102 and exceeded by Rs. 48,845 the amount realized in the previous year. The expenditure was Rs. 6,10,314. The surplus receipts actually derived from the sale of produce were nearly the same as those of last year, and the total surplus receipts at the end of the financial year reached Rs. 1,61,712, but concessions in the Raipur, Chanda and Bhandara districts have reduced these to Rs. 82,404. Last year the expenditure in the Southern Circle was high for the revenue produced, being 87 per cent. of the gross revenue, as compared with 85 of the last normal year, 1898-99. This year the proportion of receipts to charges is practically the same, but the comparison would have been much in favour of the year under report had the above concessions not proved necessary. In the Northern Circle the receipts aggregated Rs. 7,45,831 and exceed by Rs. 2,03,172 the amount realized last year. This substantial improvement is more than accounted for by the rise in receipts obtained by the supply of sleepers to the Satpura railway, and of timber in the log to the Ordnance factory at Jubbulpore. The gross expenditure was Rs. 5,10,776, so that the net surplus reached Rs. 2,35,055. The net result for the Province, as a whole, is that the large surplus of last year (Rs. 1,74,783) has mounted still higher to Rs. 3,18,843, so that the finances of the Department have now been placed on an exceptionally favourable footing.

5.—MINES AND QUARRIES.

MINES AND QUARRIES.

The number of mines and quarries.

125. During the year 1902 the number of mines working in the Central Provinces under the operation of the Indian Mines Act was four. These were two coal mines, one at Warora in the Chanda District and the other at Mohpani in the Narsinghpur District; one mine for Fuller's earth, and 14 lime-stone quarries at Murwara in the Jubbulpore District.

MINES AND QUARRIES.

126. The average number of persons employed daily in and about the mines and quarries was 4,631 (2,841 men, 1,357 women and 433 children). Of these persons 1,490 worked underground in the mines, and 1,070 in the quarries, but not in shafts or pits. The number working underground comprised 1,171 men, 250 women and 69 children. The general health of the employés was good. There were twelve accidents during the year, all of which were due to the carelessness of the workmen themselves. There were no accidents in the lime-stone quarries at Murwara. There was some difficulty in obtaining labour in the Mohpani mines owing to the fact that coal-cutting is distasteful to the local labourers, but employment in the mines is generally popular owing to the high wages earned, which ranged from 3 to 8 annas a day.

The numbers and condition of the employes.

127. The output in the Warora Colliery, which worked without interruption throughout the year, was over 150,000 tons, and only a few tons short of the record output of the preceding year. There was a larger demand from the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and the cotton mills. The cost of raising the coal was Rs. 4,45,000, or at the rate of Rs. 2-15-4 as compared with Rs. 2-14-10 per ton in 1901-02. The gross earnings of the year amounted to Rs. 6,92,791, and the net profit to Rs. 2,47,983, equal to a return of 16·24 per cent. on the capital expenditure, a most satisfactory financial result.

The Warora Colliery.

128. There has been during the year a marked advance in the development of the valuable mineral resources of the Province, which are rich in iron, manganese and coal. The large increase in the exports of metals from 15 to 27 lakhs of maunds is almost entirely due to the rapidly developing export of manganese ore from the Nagpur Division to Bombay.

Mineral resources of the province.

129. The Central Provinces Prospecting Syndicate continued the excavation of manganese under a mining lease at Ramtek in the Nagpur District, and four new mines were opened in Balaghat. The quantity of manganese ore extracted in 1900-01 was 35,356 tons: the output had risen to 44,428 tons in 1901-02, and has now reached the substantial figure of 89,600 tons. In view, moreover, of the increasing depth of the pits, action is being taken to bring these new mines under the operation of the Indian Mines Act. Mining leases for manganese ore were also granted during the year in the Chhindwara, Bhandara and Balaghat Districts. This extension of manganese mining must be regarded as one of the most important features in the history of the province during recent years.

Manganese mining.

130. Apart from the above mining operations, the competition between different companies for prospecting licenses is growing very keen. Numerous workable deposits of manganese ore have been discovered in the Ramtek, Bhandara and Balaghat tahsils of the Nagpur Division, and up to date no less than 18 prospecting licenses have been distributed among four companies. In Chhindwara also one prospecting license has been granted for manganese and one for coal, and Bilaspur also claims two licenses both for coal. Again, in the Sehora Tahsil of the Jubbulpore District three more licenses have been given, two for iron ore, and the third for lead, silver, copper, and pyrites. Finally, in the Chanda District, Mr. Tata, of Bombay, has secured two prospecting licenses for iron, copper, manganese, coal, and lime-stone combined, and also a separate license for coal, which covers an area of 2 square miles, situated near the village of Ballarpur. At this latter place borings have been in progress for some time, and a trial pit has been sunk. Mr. Tata's combined licenses cover the iron deposits at the villages of Lohara, Pipalgaon, Gunjwahi and Dewalgaon, where ores of excellent quality are to be found in abundance.

Prospecting for minerals.

6.—MANUFACTURES.

MANUFACTURES.

(Annual Provincial Report on the working of the Factories Act in the Central Provinces for the year 1902.)

131. The total number of factories working in the Central Provinces during the year 1902 increased from 70 in 1901 to 107. The increase is mainly due to the opening of 13 new factories in the Nagpur District and 20 in the Wardha District. Bilaspur and Hoshangabad have only one factory each, and both were opened in the course of the year. Except the factory started at Kota in Bilaspur, which makes matches, all the new factories are cotton and ginning presses.

Number of Factories.

MANUFACTURES.

Condition of the operatives.

132. The average number of operatives employed daily in all factories rose from 16,479 in the previous year to 20,800 in 1902. The increase is due to the opening of new mills, and occurred among both males and females. The number of female children employed during 1902 was 181 as against 78 in the previous year. No children were employed in the factories in the Chanda, Hoshangabad and Nimar Districts.

The scale of wages for skilled labour is high in the Nagpur cotton weaving and spinning mills, where it ranges from Rs. 15 to Rs. 50 per month. In Wardha, Jubbulpore and Nimar the highest wage paid to engine-drivers or blacksmiths is Rs. 30, Rs. 22 and Rs. 20 respectively. An unskilled workman earns from Rs. 4 to Rs. 6 per month everywhere. The general health of the operatives and the sanitary condition of the factories were good, and no cases of overcrowding or of insufficient ventilation were brought to light, except in some of the ginning factories of Nimar, where, however, steps are being taken to remedy the defective ventilation and latrine arrangements.

System of working.

133. As regards the system of working adopted, 33 factories worked by shifts or sets, 57 by midday stoppages, 16 by shifts and midday stoppages, and one otherwise. The requirements of the law in the matter of rest for women have been properly observed in all the factories of the Nagpur Division, and no complaint was made from elsewhere.

Accidents.

134. The number of accidents was 72 as compared with 97 in 1901. The decrease was mainly in minor accidents, but there was only one fatal accident against four in 1901. Most of the serious accidents were caused by the carelessness of the workmen.

Inspection.

135. There was marked improvement in the matter of inspections. The total number of inspections rose from 235 in the preceding year to 412 in the present. This was mainly due to the large number of inspections made by the Special Inspector of Factories and Civil Surgeons. In Wardha and Nimar, where inspections were neglected in 1901, all the factories except two were inspected, and all the Chanda factories were visited. There were six prosecutions under Section 15 of the Factories Act, and in all cases convictions were obtained.

7.—TRADE.

TRADE.

[Annual Report on the Rail-borne Traffic of the Central Provinces for the year ending 31st March 1903 ; also Accounts of the Trade carried by Rail and River in India for 1902-03.]

The character of the agricultural year.

136. The trade of the province depends immediately on the success of its agriculture. The crops which most directly influenced the trade of the year were the spring and autumn crops of the year 1902. The area of the spring crops greatly increased ; but the young plants suffered from lack of moisture. Light winter rain was received in the important rabi tracts of the northern and plateau districts, with the result that the spring crops there gave a normal yield, but in the southern half of the province the harvests were not so good. On the whole, however, with the larger area sown and better yields than in 1901, the exports of wheat, gram, and linseed increased. The kharif season of 1902 varied greatly in different parts of the country. As explained in the previous section on " Weather and Crops," the northern districts, with a light but well-distributed rainfall, did well, but the early cessation of the monsoon in Raipur, Bilaspur, Balaghat and Bhandara brought about a serious failure of the all-important rice crop, and the exports of rice, which had shown some recovery from the disastrous season of 1899-1900 again greatly declined No harm, however, was done to the important crops of cotton, juar and til. There was a very heavy yield of cotton, juar produced a normal crop on a largely increased area, and the outturn of til was almost normal. The prospects of the rabi harvest of 1902-03 were favourable throughout the season, epecially in the northern and plateau districts, and this factor considerably influenced the trade of the last months of the year.

Prices.

137. Comparing the average price per maund of agricultural produce during the year with the average of 1901-02 we find that prices have behaved well. In spite of the failure of the rice crop, its price remained stationary at Rs. 3-8-0 per

maund. The rise in the price of cotton from Rs. 13-13-0 to Rs. 15-6-0 per maund should still further extend its increasing popularity among cultivators. Prices of food-grains, though generally falling, are still higher than prior to the great famine of 1896-97, and enhance the value of the important export trade in grain. Wheat declined from Rs. 3-2-0 per maund to Rs. 2-10-0, juar from Rs. 2-5-0 to Rs. 1-12-0, gram from Rs. 2-11-0 to Rs. 2-4-0, linseed from Rs. 6-1-0 to Rs. 5-4-0 and til from Rs. 5 to Rs. 4-4-0. No addition was made during the year to the railway system of the province, and the changes made in railway freights did not materially affect the trade.

Total traffic of the year.

138. The total rail-borne traffic of the year was made up of imports maunds 9,938,000 and exports 19,413,000. The imports are maunds 1,170,000 greater than those of the previous year, and maunds 4,437,000 ahead of the quinquennial average of the years 1892-97. Exports also were maunds 2,734,000 and maunds 3,573,000, respectively, in advance of last year's figure and that of the same quinquennium. Taking the value of the trade the balance this year in favour of the province amounts to $2\frac{3}{4}$ crores of rupees, and is larger than it has ever been, having risen $\frac{1}{2}$ crore more than in the preceding year.

Imports.

139. The total value of the imports was $5\frac{1}{3}$ crores. One-third of a crore represents imported food-grains, which, though a small sum when compared with the total spent on all imports and with the large sums spent on imported food-grains in the great famine years, is still more than three times the normal of ten years ago. There was an increase of 19 lakhs in the value of imported railway plant and rolling-stock due mainly to the construction of the Gondia-Jubbulpore line. A rise of 23 lakhs, or 5 per cent., in all other imports shows that the people have found themselves generally in more comfortable circumstances. The record amount of 45 lakhs was spent on metals, and owing to the increase in the number of cotton ginning and pressing factories nearly 20 lakhs were spent on iron and steel manufactures, most of which come from Bombay seaport. Salt and kerosine-oil also, which can only be supplied from external sources, show record figures. The bulk of kerosine-oil imported has risen by maunds 182,000, and the imports of salt reached the abnormally high figures of maunds 1,604,000. The people of the Central Provinces would seem to be great consumers of salt, each person taking 13 lbs., a very large amount as compared with the consumption per head in other parts of India. Altogether, the chief features of the year's import trade have been a large increase of imports of coal, oils, oil-seeds, salts, metals, gunn-y bags and wood, and a decrease of the imports of food-grains and sugars.

Exports.

140. Both the weight and the value of the exports are the largest on record. The weight has increased from over $16\frac{1}{2}$ million to nearly $19\frac{1}{2}$ million maunds, whilst the value has increased from $7\frac{1}{3}$ crores to over 8 crores of rupees. There have been important changes in the character of the export trade during the past ten years. The great trade in wheat and rice has much declined, the loss being more than made good by an enormous increase in the exports of cotton, oil-seeds and manganese ore. Twenty years ago the exports of cotton were about 125,000 maunds; ten years ago they had risen to 314,000, and last year the figure reached 1,383,317 maunds, far overtopping the previous highest records. This year the area under cotton had increased by 18 per cent. and the outturn was one of the best on record, so that the exports again rose considerably and reached 1,430,454 maunds, valued at $2\frac{1}{5}$ crores of rupees. Exports of manufactured cotton have also risen in bulk by 14 per cent. and in value by 13 per cent. The recently developed trade in cotton-seed continues to flourish. Exports of oil-seeds, which last year doubled, have further risen slightly and now amount to nearly $3\frac{1}{2}$ million maunds. The enormous increase of exports of metals from 15 to 27 lakhs of maunds is almost entirely due to the rapidly developing export of manganese ore from the Nagpur country to Bombay. None of the important heads of export show a decline, but among unimportant articles the quantity of wood exported has fallen considerably.

Internal trade.

141. The trade between the different blocks of the Provinces shows a further improvement of 2 lakhs in weight and $11\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees in value over the figures of the previous year. The blocks which contributed to the increase were Nimar and Nagpur, while the Jubbulpore, Nerbudda and Chhattisgarh blocks show a decline. The road traffic is not generally registered in the Province, so

that statistics representing road-borne trade are not available. Judging, however, by the rail-borne trade, it is gratifying to find that in spite of seasons not wholly favourable and a degree of local scarcity which made it necessary to open famine relief in four districts, the year shows continued progress towards more prosperous conditions of living.

PUBLIC WORKS.

8.—PUBLIC WORKS.

[Finance Accounts of the Buildings, Roads and Irrigation Branches of the Public Works Department, Central Provinces, for 1902-03 and Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India for the year 1902-03.]

IMPERIAL WORKS.

142. No Imperial works of any great importance were undertaken during the year. Several additions and alterations were made to Post and Telegraph Office buildings, and as much as Rs 2,500 was spent on the Mandla Post Office. New quarters were also built at Rampur and Khurda for the Sergeant-Instructors of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Volunteer Rifles. A further sum of Rs. 10,682 was spent on borings to prove the extent of the Ballarpur coal field in Chanda, and this work is still in progress. Owing to the failure of the rice crop, famine was declared in Raipur District in December 1902 and at once two famine camps were opened for the employment on earthwork and moorum collection of all who needed support. However, the numbers seeking relief were not so great as had at first been anticipated, and in consequence a third camp was not required till March 1903, so that the total expenditure on famine road works was only Rs. 26,100.

PROVINCIAL WORKS.

The total expenditure on Provincial Public Works reached a sum of Rs. 26,75,672 and was distributed in the following manner :—

Forest Buildings. 143. At both Raipur and Balaghat new quarters for the Forest Officer were nearly completed, and at Raipur and Saugor new offices were under construction. In this way Rs. 23,800 were spent on Forest buildings.

Land Revenue Buildings. 144. The Tahsil buildings at Nagpur, Hoshangabad, Arvi and Multai were all enlarged and improved, and the new Settlement office at Sambalpur was completed. Altogether Rs. 33,200 was spent on construction and Rs. 13,906 on repair of Land Revenue buildings.

Excise Buildings. 145. The new Sadar Distillery at Tirora was finished, and another distillery begun at Bargarh. In all Rs. 17,900 went for Excise buildings.

Residency and Secretariat Offices. 146. In consequence of the difficulty of providing Government House on the Residency Hill with an adequate water-supply from the Ambajheri Reservoir, a large well had to be constructed close at hand at a cost of Rs. 6,000. Other extensions and repairs to the Residency and Secretariat Offices cost Rs. 14,300.

Schools and Hostels. 147. The High Schools at both Sambalpur and Raipur were provided with new boarding-houses at a total cost of Rs. 15,100, and the Government College at Sambalpur with an examination hall for Rs. 13,400.

The first designs of the Agricultural School at Maharaj Bagh were completed at a cost of Rs. 16,400, but subsequently it was decided to provide accommodation for 120 students, and fresh additions are now being made. These were the principal items in a total expenditure of Rs. 1,10,800 on educational buildings.

Church Buildings. 148. Church buildings required only a few repairs, but the new cemeteries at both Nagpur and Jubbulpore were enlarged during the year. The whole expenditure on church buildings amounted to Rs. 18,600.

Courts and Circuit Houses. 149. Extensive additions were made to several of the District Court-houses. New Courts were built at Sambalpur and Wardha, and fresh rooms added at Khandwa, Narsinghpur, Betul, Bilaspur and Sambalpur. At the latter place also the whole building was re-roofed, and the construction of iron racks, to cost Rs. 10,000, begun. New Circuit-houses are in process of construction at Chhindwara and Saugor, and at Pachmarhi the additions to the old Circuit-house

and all the buildings of the second one were completed. An office for the Commissioner of Jubbulpore was also finished, and another for the Commissioner of Nerbudda begun. In addition to these a new bungalow was built for the Commissioner of Nerbudda, while Rs. 10,000 was spent for the purchase of a bungalow for the Deputy Commissioner of Khandwa, the addition of stables and out-houses costing Rs. 3,000 more. At Narsinghpur also the Deputy Commissioner's bungalow, recently destroyed by fire, was entirely remodelled, and at Chanda new quarters were provided and built for one Assistant Commissioner and three Extra-Assistant Commissioners. In all the total expenditure on Civil Buildings of this kind was Rs. 3,06,200.

Jails.

150. At Raipur Jail a double-storied hospital and circumvallation wall were constructed for Rs. 16,000, the verandahs in four barracks raised and the kitchen improved. Minor additions and alterations were also made to the jails at Bilaspur, Khandwa, Sambalpur, Betul, Chanda and Damoh, so that the whole expenditure on Jail buildings mounted to Rs. 48,900.

Police Buildings.

151. A Police office was built at Khandwa for Rs. 6,600, new station-houses and quarters were completed for Chandarpur, Betul and Pulgaon, while others in hand at the close of the year were those at Urbali, Ambagarh Chauki, Burgaon and Muramgaon. Fresh accommodation was also provided in the Police lines at Balaghat, Badnur, Handia and Khandwa, while two blocks were improved in the Takli lines, and new roofing put on at Bilaspur. The total outlay on Police buildings thus amounted to Rs. 1,17,000.

Asylums.

152. Rs. 7,200 was spent on enlargements of the Nagpur Lunatic Asylum. Work on the new Leper Asylum at Nagpur was still in progress at the end of the year. It has now been decided that accommodation shall be provided for 252 inmates. In all Rs. 46,900 was spent on asylum and hospital buildings.

Communications.

153. The expenditure on "Communications" can be classified as follows:— Roads metalled, Rs. 1,52,800; roads surfaced and wholly or partially bridged and drained, Rs. 3,05,600; roads banked and surfaced but not drained, Rs. 24,000; roads banked but not surfaced, Rs. 66,000; roads cleared only, Rs. 11,600; ferries and boat-bridges, Rs. 3,000; accommodation for travellers, Rs. 28,000. The total length of metalled roads maintained in the Central Provinces by the Public Works Department and Local Bodies together was 1,374 miles of metalled and 3,805 miles of unmetalled road. The most important roads under construction in the different Divisions were the following:—

Bhandara Division.—Balaghat-Baihar Road. This road was begun as a famine work and is now drawing towards completion. The total expenditure to date has been just over 2 lakhs.

Work was also proceeding on the Tirora-Khairlangi, Rajegaon-Kirnapur, Tumsar-Katangi, and Lamtha-Baihar Roads. The Tumsar-Mohari Road has been completed as also have Inspection Bungalows at Bawanthari and Tirora.

Eastern Division.—The Bhatapara-Loan Road has been completed and that part of the Simga-Kawardha Road which lies in the Bilaspur District. Work was also in progress on the following roads:—Rajim-Deobhag; Raj-Nandgaon-Antagarh; Arang-Khariar; Kota-Lormi; Nandghat-Mungeli and Sambalpur-Cuttack. Inspection bungalows have also been completely constructed at Attabira, Simga, Drug, Janjgir, Mungeli and Bargarh.

Hoshangabad Division.—Work continued on the Khergarh-Sanawad, Mortakka-Mandhatta and Multai-Berar Frontier Roads. The Singanama-Chhindwara Road has been specially protected at those points where it is open to damage by storm-water and a submerged bridge over the Sukni River was completed. An inspection bungalow was finished at Seoni-Malwa, and others at Harsud and Sohagpur were begun.

Jubbulpore Division.—The Sehora-Majhouli-Singrampur Road was practically completed, and also that portion of the Dindori-Birsinghpur Road which lies within British territory. Rs. 14,200 was also spent on the stretch of the same road which falls within Rewah State. An inspection bungalow was also built at the Hiran River on the Damoh Road.

Nagpur Division.—No new roads were commenced, but work proceeded on the following:—Chimur-Warora; Kalmeshwar-Katol; Khapa-Patansaongi; Mul-Muramgaon; Warora-Patalla; Chanda-Allapilly; Brahmapuri-Garchiroli; and

PUBLIC WORKS.

Mul-Dhanora-Muramgaon. An inspection bungalow was constructed at Brahmapuri, and another at Mul altered and improved. The Chanda Dâk Bungalow was also enlarged and a new bungalow begun at Nagpur.

Narsinghpur Division.—The only important work in progress here was the Narsinghpur-Chhindwara Road. The bridge over the Hadai Nala was completed, as were new inspection bungalows at Sausar and Gadarwara. Five large wells were also sunk.

Saugor Division.—Work went forward on the roads from Saugor to Rehli and Rahatgarh and on the Garhakota-Patharia Road, and the causeway over the Sonar was also completed. New inspection bungalows were constructed at both Rehli and Khurai and a deep well sunk on the Malthone camping-ground on the Saugor-Jhansi Road.

In addition to this expenditure on works of construction the following sums were spent on repairs:—Metalled roads Rs. 3,77,000; surfaced roads Rs. 1,92,000, and banked roads Rs. 50,600, while Rs. 10,000 was spent on roadside avenues.

INCORPORATED LOCAL FUNDS.

The chief works paid by these funds were sections of the Katni-Jhingri Railway feeder and of the Mandla-Ghugri road over the Biddi Pass. In all Rs. 42,000 were spent on original works, 1½ lakhs in repairs, and Rs. 4,000 on arboriculture.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

Miscellaneous Public Improvements.

154. Good progress was made in the construction of the Nagpur Technical Institute and Memorial Hall, the estimated cost of which is Rs. 1,40,000; the outlay during the year was Rs. 64,000. Extensive improvements were made to the storage of the Ambajheri Reservoir at Nagpur, and a duplicate rising main from the pumping reservoir to the service reservoir was also begun. Sundry improvements were made on the plateau at Pachmarhi at a cost of Rs. 18,700, and Rs. 10,000 was spent on dry-stone pitching on the left bank of the Nerbudda River opposite the Commissioner's bungalow. An ornamental fountain to the memory of the late Mr. C. W. McIver was raised at Jubbulpore, and a new dispensary for the Church of England Zenana Mission at Panagarh. The expense of these two last works was defayed from public contributions.

RAILWAYS, TRAMWAYS AND CANALS.

155. There are no railways or tramways under the control of the Local Government, and there are no canals in the province.

TELEGRAPH AND POST OFFICES.

156. Apart from the work done to the Mandla Post Office noted above under "Imperial Works" no noteworthy additions or alterations were made to the Postal or Telegraph Offices of the province. Mention may here be made of the introduction in the Jubbulpore District, as a tentative measure, of a scheme whereby communications from the District and Tahsil Offices were delivered through village postmen instead of by the subordinates of the Revenue and Land Record Staff. The scheme gave good promise of success, as the number of communications thus delivered reached a monthly average of 1,000.

IRRIGATION. 9.—IRRIGATION.

[Season and Crop Report of the Central Provinces for the year 1902-03 and Administration Report of the Public Works Department in the Central Provinces for the year 1902-03.]

Ordinary irrigation.

157. The dryness of the year did not favour the extension of irrigation. There were 51,291 temporary and 14,510 durable wells and 42,628 artificial irrigation tanks. Both the latter have considerably decreased since last year. Moreover, the area irrigated in the province shrunk from 745,628 to 548,986 acres, of which 456,889 were watered from tanks and 64,167 acres from wells. The difference in the rainfall over the province illustrated very clearly the advantages and disadvantages of the several systems of irrigation followed in the province. The small amount of irrigation in the northern districts is from deep wells used only to their full extent in years of drought to save a small area of rabi crops; the area irrigated

from these wells fell to a minimum with a favourable season. The bulk of the irrigation consists of the watering of rice from tanks or reservoirs. The rainfall was insufficient to fill most of these tanks in the Chanda, Bhandara, Balaghat and Seoni rice tracts, with the result that the water-supply failed when it was most required, resulting in a large decrease in the irrigated area. In Sambalpur, on the other hand, the early rainfall was sufficient to fill the tanks, and with the failure of the late rains, the water-supply was utilized to its utmost extent, resulting in a large increase of the irrigated area, in consequence of which a good crop was obtained. Raipur and Bilaspur stand midway, the rainfall being heavy enough to fill tanks in some parts which were very fully utilized, whilst in other parts the tanks never filled; these districts show a decrease in the irrigated area, but not so great as in the Wainganga valley districts.

State irrigation.

158. The year under report will be memorable in the history of the Central Provinces as that in which State irrigation was begun in them.

The Irrigation Commission.

159. The Irrigation Commission completed their investigations in the Province during the month of March 1902 and, pending the issue of their final report, recommended that the following experimental works should be undertaken as soon as possible in the rice-growing districts, with the two-fold object of obtaining further information and extending irrigation in the Province:—(*a*) the completion of the large tanks which were begun during the famine of 1899-1900 in the broadcasted rice tracts of Raipur and Bilaspur; (*b*) the construction of two or three large irrigation tanks in the transplanted rice districts of Balaghat and Bhandara; (*c*) the embanking of wheat-fields on black cotton soil in suitable tracts; (*d*) the strenthening of the Public Works Department by the formation of an Irrigation Circle. The immediate consequence of these recommendations was the formation of an Irrigation Circle, which contained at the close of the year two Executive Divisions and two Independent Executive Charges.

Work done in the Irrigation Circle during the year.

160. The work done in the Irrigation Circle during the year comprised:—(*a*) the revision of 15 major tank projects; (*b*) the investigation and survey of 42 other major projects; (*c*) progress in the construction of 17 major works. In addition 9 relief-works were opened all in the Raipur District, and good progress was made on several minor irrigation works, such as wheat-field embankments and the construction and improvement of small tanks, aqueducts and wells. Before the estimates of all the major projects which had been begun during the last famine could be revised, the rice-crop again failed in the rice tracts of Nagpur and Chhattisgarh, and the original programme of the Department was at once modified in order to meet the emergency. It thus came about that from the month of October 1902, to the end of the year, the Irrigation staff was almost exclusively employed in working up relief programmes in the distressed districts and in dealing with relief measures. The total expenditure on the 9 irrigation tanks started as relief-works was Rs. 1,32,485. Owing to the pre-occupation of the staff in the south of the Province with this famine work, the expenditure on the major works could reach only Rs. 1,81,000 out of a budget provision of 4 lakhs. There was nothing, however, to interfere with the punctual execution of work in the Northern Districts of Saugor, Damoh, Hoshangabad and Jubbulpore, and practically the whole of the amount—one lakh—allotted for minor works was usefully spent before the close of the year.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

[Further details and statistics will be found in the "Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India for the year 1902-03."]

GROSS REVENUE.

Gross Revenue.

161. The following statement compares with convenient brevity the receipts, expenditure and closing balance under the various heads of account for the years 1901-02 and 1902-03:—

Heads.	Receipts.		Expenditure.		Closing Balance.	
	1901-02.	1902-03.	1901-02.	1902-03.	1901 02.	1902-03.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imperial Revenue ...	44,15,309	51,47,337	12,88,367	11,46,334	...	...
Provincial Revenue ...	1,17,33,643	1,03,14,332	94,91,195	1,03,13,787	22,42,448	22,42,993
Local Funds—						
Incorporated ...	17,69,745	17,35,321	14,03,151	17,49,164	4,73,934	4,60,091
Excluded ...	4,47,076	4,38,328	4,37,495	4,30,313	1,41,015	1,49,030
Municipal Revenues ...	15,05,231	15,23,125	14,43,449	16,17,463	3,50,123	2,55,785
Total ...	1,98,71,004	1,91,58,443	1,40,63,657	1,52,57,061	32,07,520	31,07,899

(a) IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE.

Imperial Revenue.

162. The following statement compares the actuals of the two years 1901-02 and 1902-03. The major heads under which striking differences have occurred are given in detail, and the other heads are lumped together:—

Revenue and Receipts.	Actuals.		Expenditure.	Actuals.	
	1901-02.	1902-03.		1901-02.	1902-03.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Land Revenue. Proper ...	43,42,771	39,56,331	Assignments and Compensations.	1,89,165	46,225
Land Revenue. Adjustments.	—38,22,649	—27,17,505	Stamps ...	16,355	10,577
Opium ...	2,00,456	2,40,508	Forest ...	4,87,609	5,75,570
Stamps ...	3,89,456	3,65,285	Scientific and other Minor Departments.	96,482	25,181
Excise ...	14,63,404	16,90,583	Other heads ...	4,98,756	4,88,781
Customs ...	1,07,730	1,21,665			
Assessed Taxes ...	2,07,135	1,79,509			
Forest ...	5,57,861	7,58,603			
Tributes ...	3,12,407	2,89,200			
Interest ...	15,205	6,400			
Receipts in aid of Superannuation, &c.	29,035	42,701			
Miscellaneous ...	5,63,997	1,69,920			
Other heads ...	48,501	44,137			
Total ...	44,15,309	51,47,337	Total ...	12,88,367	11,46,334

163. LAND REVENUE—*Imperial share one-half.*—The decrease in Land Revenue Proper resulted from the remission under the orders of the Government of India of twenty lakhs of famine arrears outstanding at the end of last year. This year therefore ten lakhs only of famine and suspended arrears were collected as against Rs. 17,79,000 in 1901-02.

164. CANAL REVENUE—There is no canal revenue in this Province.

SOURCES OF IMPERIAL REVENUE OTHER THAN THE LAND.

165. CUSTOMS—*Imperial.*—The increase of Rs. 13,935 was due to the excellent cotton crop and to the additional duty realised from a new mill.

166. OPIUM—*Imperial*—The increase in the opium revenue must be attributed partly to the improved financial condition of the people, but more to increased police, activity and to successful prosecutions in Nagpur and the northern districts which had the effect of checking the smuggling trade which is carried on from the adjacent Native States. Further indication of the greater prosperity of the agricultural classes is afforded by the rapid increase of the revenue from country liquor, which has brought in some two and a quarter lakhs more than last year. Receipts from still-head duty on spirit, duty on mahua, vend fees, and out-still license fees have all risen greatly, but the increase occurs chiefly under the head of out-still license fees, and is partly attributable to a good and abundant mahua crop.

167. EXCISE—*Imperial share three-quarters.*—The ganja revenue also shows a slight upward tendency, but it is certain that the raising of the duty from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 per seer, with effect from the 1st April 1901, has greatly checked consumption, which is still some 8,000 seers below the average of the years 1891—1900.

There has been an increase of expenditure under all heads except for construction and repairs of buildings. The greater part of the increase is accounted for by the increase in the cost price of Government opium following on larger sales. Larger rewards were also given. It must also be noted that with effect from April 1903 all excise buildings have been handed over to the Public Works Department, and a liberal budget allotment has been made for new construction and repairs.

168. SALT—*Imperial share three-fourths.*—There is no revenue in these Provinces under this head. The receipts on account of Northern India and Baragora salts are passed into India and Bombay respectively.

169. STAMPS—*Imperial share one-fourth.*—There was a decrease of Rs. 74,643 in the sales of court-fee stamps which is attributed partly to the effect of the debt conciliation proceedings and partly to the lull in business caused by the out-break of plague at important centres in the Province. Sales of document stamps also fell slightly for the reason that agriculturists were better able to dispense with the money-lender's aid.

The decrease in expenditure of Rs. 24,000 is due to the fact that smaller supplies of stamps were received during the year owing to the change in procedure by which quarterly instead of annual consignments are now sent from the Bombay Central Depôt to all districts.

170. ASSESSED TAXES—*Imperial share one-half.*—The difference of Rs. 55,000, being the net result of a decrease of Rs. 20,000 under License Tax and an increase of Rs. 15,000 under Income Tax, was due to the abolition of the former tax from the 1st April 1902 and to the annual reduction of money lenders' incomes in 1901-02 caused by the writing off of debts which had proved irrecoverable after the famines.

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* Further detailed information will be found in the Report on the Excise Revenue of the Central Provinces for the year 1902-03.

171. FORESTS—*Imperial share one-half.*—The increase of Rs. 4,02,000 gives further evidence of the growing prosperity. During the year also large consignments of sleepers were supplied to the newly constructed Satpura Railway, and of other timber to the Ordnance Department recently established at Jubbulpore. The same operations led also to increased expenditure.

172. ANY OTHER TAXES LEVIED FOR IMPERIAL PURPOSES.—The decrease of Rs. 23,000 under "Tributes" represents the difference between the cessation of payment of Rs. 60,000 in nazarana fees by the Nandgaon State and an increase of Rs. 37,000 for advance receipts and recovery of arrears from other Native States.

The advance recovery last year of an instalment of loan with interest by the Native State and the postponement till 1903-04 of another similar instalment explain the decrease of Rs. 9,000 under "Interest."

The increase of Rs. 14,000 from "Receipts in aid of superannuation" is due to the raising of the rates of subscription under the Indian Civil Service Family Pension Regulations.

The decrease of Rs. 3,94,000 under "Miscellaneous" was inevitable, as these receipts in 1901-02 were greatly swollen by large recoveries of famine expenditure.

On the expenditure side the decrease under "Assignments and compensations" is explained by the fact that in 1901-02 Rs. 1,42,000 were paid to the Jagirdars of Chhindwara and Hoshangabad as compensation for resumption of certain abkari rights, while that under "Scientific and other departments" was chiefly due to the reduced expenditure on census operations in 1902-03.

(*b*) REVENUE AND FINANCE OTHER THAN IMPERIAL.

173. The following statement compares the actuals of the two years 1901-02 and 1902-03. The major heads under which striking differences occurred are shown in detail and the others are lumped together :—

Revenue and Receipts.	Actuals.		Expenditure.	Actuals.	
	1901-02.	1902-03.		1901-02.	1902-03.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Opening Balance ...	...	22,42,448	Land Revenue ...	11,71,780	12,47,370
			Stamps ...	49,067	31,732
Land Revenue. Proper ...	43,42,770	39,56,331	Forest ...	4,87,608	5,75,569
Land Revenue. Adjustments ...	+38,22,649	+27,17,505	General Administration ...	4,97,820	5,76,251
Stamps ...	11,68,367	10,95,857	Law and Justice. Courts of Law ...	9,91,378	10,73,987
Excise ...	4,87,801	5,63,528	Law and Justice. Jails ...	5,29,191	4,57,208
Provincial Rates ...	3,02,738	2,21,878	Police ...	14,68,703	15,04,596
Assessed Taxes ...	2,07,135	1,79,510	Education ...	3,78,661	4,38,369
Forest ...	5,57,862	7,58,602	Scientific and other Minor Departments.	67,342	93,153
Post Office ...	7,806	28,201	Superannuation and Retired Allowances.	3,64,041	3,87,228
Law and Justice. Courts of Law ...	1,01,557	1,19,073	Miscellaneous ...	5,48,351	92,944
Law and Justice. Jails ...	2,48,262	2,17,990	Minor Works and Navigation.	...	98,889
Other heads ...	4,86,696	4,55,857	Civil works ...	20,02,984	25,82,498
			Other heads ...	7,88,539	7,89,692
Total ..	1,17,33,643	1,03,14,332	Contributions to Local ...	1,45,730	3,64,301
			Total ...	94,91,195	1,03,13,787
GRAND TOTAL ...	1,17,33,643	1,25,56,780	Closing Balance ...	22,42,448	22,42,993
			GRAND TOTAL ...	1,17,33,643	1,25,56,780

174. PROVINCIAL REVENUES.—Besides the variations under *Divided Heads* explained in the section "Imperial Revenue and Finance" there are on the receipt side considerable decreases under "Provincial Rates" and "Law and Justice—Jails." The fall under the former was due partly to remission and abatement of cesses in certain districts, and partly to the fact that in 1901-02 there were unusually large realizations of arrear cesses, while the decrease in the Jail income is the result of the closing of the Tent Factory at Jubbulpore Central Jail for reasons explained elsewhere.

There are notable increases in Post Office receipts and those from "Courts of Law." The first is made up of recoveries of arrear contributions from Feudatory States, while the second was chiefly contributed by increased magisterial fines.

On the expenditure side the increases which occurred may be explained as follows:—Under *Land Revenue* and *Law and Justice—Courts of Law*—due to increased expenditure under "Salaries of Gazetted officers" consequent on the return of officers from leave; *General Administration*—due to charges on account of Delhi Coronation Darbar and replacement of the camp equipage of the Honourable the Chief Commissioner; *Police*—owing to the introduction of Police into the zamindaris of Chanda and Chhindwara Districts and to larger expenditure on "Clothing" and "Arms and accoutrements"; *Education*—due to a part utilization of the special contribution of Rs. 2,00,000 given by the Government of India for increased expenditure on education, the major portion of which was assigned to the District Councils for construction of new schools; *Scientific and other Minor Departments*—due to expenditure on account of Gazetteer and Statistical Memoirs, improvements in Botanical gardens and introduction of agricultural experiments on a larger scale; *Superannuation and Retired allowances*—due to new pensions and transfers from other Provinces; *Minor works and Navigation and Civil works in charge of Public Works Officers*—due to the introduction of the irrigation scheme from 1902-03 and to grants from Imperial Revenues for special projects respectively; and *Contributions to Local*—due to transfers from special grants under "Education" as explained above.

Decreased expenditure under "Jails" results from savings both under "Salaries of Superintendents" and "Supplies and Services," which latter diminished owing to stocks of grain having been fully utilized without fresh purchases: payment of a heavy bill of Rs. 37,000 for raw material for Jubbulpore Jail was also deferred till next year. The expenditure under "Miscellaneous" also fell as compared with the previous year there was little writing off of irrecoverable loans and advances.

175. LOCAL FUNDS.—These funds comprise Incorporated and Excluded Local Funds. The income, expenditure and opening and closing balances of the Incorporated Local Funds for the year 1902-03 were as follows:—

Name of the Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
District Funds	2,98,375	12,01,386	14,99,761	11,84,335	3,15,426
Patwari Fund	1,47,286	5,23,498	6,70,784	5,56 610	1,14,174
Inland Labour Transport Fund ...	28,273	10,437	38,710	8,219	30,491
Total ...	4,73,934	17,35,321	22,09,255	17,49,164	4,60,091

176. ROAD CESSES AND EDUCATION CESSES.—These cesses together amounted to Rs. 4,18,579 and form the most important source of the income of the District Funds, which also included ordinary contributions from Government, aggregating Rs. 1,60,771, towards the general purposes of the fund, and special grants amounting to Rs. 2,03,530 made during the year for educational purposes. As compared with the receipts of last year there was a decrease of Rs. 1,66,398

under Road and Education cesses taken together and of Rs. 1,50,803 under Patwari Fund Receipts; but in both cases the fall is due to the fact that the previous year's actuals included collections of revenue suspended in famine years, and that further remissions and abatements were made during the year as explained in the section on "The Realization of Revenue."

Excluded Local Funds include Cantonment Funds, Town and Bazar Funds, Police Remount Funds, Dispensary Funds, Museum Funds, Famine Orphan Charitable Relief Funds and Education Funds. The total transactions and the balances are shown in the statement under "Gross Revenue." Variations here were unimportant.

177. MUNICIPAL REVENUES.—The transactions and the balance of the Municipal Fund are also shown above. The receipts include Rs. 43,407 on account of Government grants and Rs. 11,249 on account of subscriptions from private persons for general educational purposes.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES.

1.—DETAILS OF CENSUS.

DETAILS OF CENSUS.

178. An account of the above subject will be found on pages 31—52 of the Administration Report for 1901-02.

2.—BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces for the year 1902 and Table XIII-2—13 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1902-03.]

Area and system of registration.

179. From the beginning of 1902, the registration of vital statistics was introduced for the first time into the jagirs of the Chhindwara District, which represent a population of 60,001. With this exception, the area under registration in the province was the same as in the preceding year. There has been no change in the system of registration, but the inspection of village report books has been more thorough and systematic, and seems to show that the registration effected in rural circles is fairly accurate. In town areas, however, the reporting of vital statistics is still defective, and stricter enforcement of the law is required against those who wilfully fail to report. Special orders on this subject were issued during the year, and in future the services of the vaccination and conservancy staffs will be utilized to improve the reporting agency.

Births.

180. The total number of births registered during the year was 471,774 against 279,998 in 1901, and the birth-rate was 48·29 against 28·63 in 1901 and 41·56, the mean of the decennium. With the exception of the year 1881, when the rate was 48·94, the birth-rate for the year 1902 was the highest recorded during the past two decades.

This large increase in the birth-rate is doubtless in the main due to a return to normal conditions after a period of distress, and is evidence of the great powers of recuperation possessed by the people. The births exceeded the deaths in all districts, the excess for the province being 219,495. The number of males born to every 100 females was 104·78, much the same as last year.

Deaths.

181. A total of 252,279 deaths was registered during the year against 227,853 in 1901, the ratios being 25·82 and 23·46, respectively. The decennial mean was 32·44. There was a total of 132,318 deaths among males against 119,961 among females: in other words, a proportion of 110·30 males to every 100 females died in 1902. In 1903 the proportion was almost the same, 111·92.

As remarked above, the birth-rate is the highest recorded since 1881, and, considering the extraordinary increase of the infantile population, the death-rate of 25·82 must be regarded as remarkably low. It compares favourably with that of 1899, the corresponding year of recovery from famine. Calculating the rate of infantile mortality on the number of births of the year, the death-rate among infants under one year was materially lower than the quinquennial mean and than that of the previous year, 1901.

Chief diseases.

182. The year was dry and healthy. Save for small-pox in a few districts and for some plague at the end of the year there was no epidemic mortality. Cholera was practically unknown, and in most districts the ordinary autumnal prevalence of malarial fever was less than usual. The highest mortality occurred during the months of May and September to December, when the death-rate varied between 2·07 and 2·95. The rains was the healthiest season of the year.

Indigenous plague.

183. The history of indigenous plague is confined to the outbreak at Loni, a village in the Nimar District, which lasted from the 3rd February to the 25th March, and to outbreaks at Burhanpur, Jubbulpore, two other villages in the Nimar District, and the small town of Pulgaon in the Wardha District, where the first indigenous case occurred on the 27th December. The total mortality set down to plague was 1,061. The outbreak at Loni was suppressed by the vigorous action of the district authorities. At Jubbulpore plague appears to have been concealed for some little time before its presence was discovered, and the disease had obtained a firm footing before the close of the year. The outbreak at Burhanpur was a very severe one and continued into the current year.

Special measures.

184. Instructions as to measures to be taken for the prevention of malarial fever were circulated during the year, and assent was given to proposals made by the Administrative Medical Officer for systematic operations of an experimental character in certain municipal towns for the destruction of mosquitoes. There were 60 cases of snake-bite in which Calmette's anti-venene was used, but the circumstances of these cases do not furnish any reliable proof that the treatment is efficacious. The number of patients sent to Kasauli for treatment after being bitten by rabid animals was 7 only. When effect is given to the instructions on the subject issued in September last, the number during the current year should be greater. A special officer was also deputed to conduct a detailed enquiry concerning the prevalence of lathyrism in the province, and his report is awaited.

3.—EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

[Report on Inland Emigration of the Central Provinces for the year ending 30th June 1903 and Table XXXV-4 of the Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Eleventh Issue.]

Number of emigrants.

185. Emigration received a considerable impetus during the year under report, 6,709 emigrants and 8,580 dependants having been recruited against 5,534 emigrants and 3,149 dependants last year. The chief recruiting grounds are the districts of the Chhattisgarh Division, which supply nine-tenths of the emigrants from the whole province. Elsewhere emigration has made little or no headway, a fact which is probably attributable to the return of better times. The increase in the number of emigrants during the year is especially marked in Chhattisgarh, owing mainly, no doubt, to the distress prevailing in the Raipur and Bilaspur Districts, but partly also to the increased strength and activity of the recruiting agency. The failure of the rice crops in Balaghat, Seoni, Bhandara and Chanda might have been expected to lead to more extensive recruitment, but the labouring population in the two latter districts were able to find employment and good wages by temporarily emigrating to Berar during the cotton-picking season, and in Seoni and Balaghat numbers were employed on the Satpura extension of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway and on the manganese mines.

System of recruitment.

186. Most of the recruitment in the province is by garden-sardars, only 2,345 out of the total number of 6,709 labourers having been recruited by contractors and their assistants. More than three-fourths of the labourers recruited by garden-sardars were placed under labour contracts under Sections 72 and 75 of the Act. The Tea Districts Labour Supply Association has been exempted from the provisions of Sections 72 and 75 of the Act, but has taken very little advantage of the exemption. Moreover, on the representation of the Chief Commissioner of Assam the provisions of Section 90 have been extended to all the labour districts of the Jubbulpore and Chhattisgarh Divisions, but it is yet too early to judge of the effect of this extension.

The accommodation provided for coolies have now been brought up to the requirements of the Act and Rules. Rest-houses and depôts have been regularly inspected by Superintendents and Medical Officers; sanitary arrangements are good, and no serious defects in management or control have been brought to light.

Irregularities.

187. Few serious irregularities occurred during the year. In Raipur a licensed and unlicensed contractor were jointly tried and convicted under Sections 323, 342 and 419 of the Indian Penal Code, and in Sambalpur two garden-sardars were

under trial at the end of the year for kidnapping, and one contractor's license was cancelled for mismanagement and wrongful recruitment. Under the Emigration Act there were sixteen prosecutions and twelve convictions, the latter all under Section 164. One contractor, 20 sardars and 56 recruiters had their licenses and certificates cancelled for irregular recruitment, the commonest offence being recruiting beyond the local limits of the license.

Special features of the year.

188. The important feature of the administration of the Act during the year has been the introduction of a set of rules providing for the management and control of depôts and other places of accommodation and for carrying out the provisions of the Act generally. Both District Officers and the immigration authorities are agreed that so far these rules have worked smoothly and well.

The provisions of the Act do not apply to the Central Provinces Feudatory States, which even before its introduction offered a ready field of operations to unscrupulous recruiters. To meet this difficulty a simple set of rules, prohibiting recruitment altogether in certain States and otherwise than by licensed garden-sardars under supervision in others, was drawn up and introduced in consultation with the Feudatory Chiefs. It appears, however, that the latter have remained inoperative, as no licenses were applied far by garden-sardars, and no recruiting under the special rules, therefore, took place. The matter is now engaging the attention of the Political Agent.

Financial.

189. The total receipts for the year from fees amounted to Rs. 10,353, against Rs. 10,242 last year. Registration fees accounted for Rs. 6,733, while Rs. 3,620 consisted of license fees.

Immigration.

190. The Census record of the last decade proves that there has been little or no immigration into the Central Provinces at any time. Such little immigration as may have taken place has hitherto been confined to the Sambalpur and Nimar Districts, but during the year under report there has been none worth recording.

4.—MEDICAL RELIEF.

MEDICAL RELIEF.

[Notes on the Annual Statement of the Government Charitable Dispensaries in the Central Provinces for the year 1902, and Table XIV-2—6 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for the year 1902-03.]

Number of Dispensaries.

191. Twelve new dispensaries were opened and 9 closed during the year, bringing the total number open in the Central Provinces at the end of the year to 190, of which 28 were maintained by the State and 85 by Local Funds, while the remaining 77 were either private or State-aided institutions. At Chhindwara a new main dispensary, the Victoria Memorial Hospital, was constructed at a cost of Rs. 18,000.

Number of patients treated.

192. The total number of patients, in-door and out-door, treated during the past year was 1,348,011, practically the same as 1901, when the number was 1,347,932. That attendance at dispensaries should have been so well maintained in spite of the healthy character of the year and the prevalence of plague in several towns is a hopeful sign of their increased popularity. Among in-patients as compared with 1901, there is a decrease of 1,001 equal to 10·44 per cent. in the number treated, and of 9,697 equal to 20·05 per cent. in the daily average number, which fell to 484. The number of beds available was 948. The decrease is the natural consequence of a healthy year and a diminished number of famine waifs. The ratio of deaths to total treated was 8·60 as compared with 9·22 in 1901. The high death-rate in Raipur (15·78) is attributed to increased admissions of pauper patients in connection with scarcity in parts of the district.

The total number of out-patients treated was practically the same as in 1901, the very slight difference being in favour of 1902. The daily average number treated was only 2 per cent. less than last year, in spite of the fact that two or three days' supply of medicines is now issued in all suitable cases. Diminished attendance in the Raipur District is evidence that notwithstanding local scarcity, the year was a healthy one, and that the general condition of the people was good.

Private and Railway Dispensaries.

193. Of 45 private dispensaries, 16 are maintained and managed by Missionary bodies, and in these the total number of in-door and out-door patients treated rose from 81,803 in 1901 to 97,917 in 1902. It is satisfactory to find that both Feudatory State dispensaries and Railway dispensaries have also done good work, the increase in the total number of patients treated in them being 2,027 and 9,162, respectively.

MEDICAL RELIEF.

Relative frequency of diseases.

194. The most important variations, as compared with 1901, are an increase of 28,530 under eye diseases, a decrease of 17,912 under malarial fevers and of 9,457 under skin diseases. A dry and comparatively healthy year explains these variations: 814 cases of tubercular diseases were treated against 509 in 1901. More attention has been paid to diagnosis and to correct c'assification, yet some districts still return quite an inconsiderable number of cases. These diseases are probably more common than might be inferred from the above figures. Local inquiries show that they are far from rare in Nagpur city.

Surgical operations.

195. The number of surgical operations performed was 33,802 against 32,809 in 1901,—an increase of 993. The majority were surgically of a trivial nature. Important operations numbered only 1,785, 26 less than last year—the latter included 810 operations for cataract, 97 for stone, 73 major operations, 14 for hernia, 14 for liver abscess, and 11 for abdominal section. Four hundred and seventy-five post-mortem examinations were performed in connection with judicial enquiries. Of the total number, 151 were carried out by Civil Surgeons and Civil Medical Officers, 72 by Assistant Surgeons, and 252 by Hospital Assistants.

Treatment of women.

196. There are Dufferin hospitals at Nagpur and Jubbulpore, and 12 Main and 16 Branch dispensaries have a trained midwife attached. In time all important dispensaries will have a trained midwife on the staff. When not engaged in their special work, the midwives are usefully employed as dispensers and dressers on the female-side of the hospital. Arrangements for the separation of male and female out-patients, while being examined and prescribed for, exist in 90 out of 101 dispensaries.

Income.

197. The total amount contributed by Government was Rs. 3,791 more than in 1901. The increase took place chiefly in salaries of Medical Officers, due to the promotion of Hospital Assistants. District and Municipal funds contributed less by Rs. 7,534 and Rs. 5,605, respectively, than in the previous year. Including the opening balance of Rs. 81,000, the total income of the year was just over 3 lakhs. Europeans subscribed Rs. 683 more, and Natives Rs. 809 less, than in the preceding year. An encouraging feature in some districts is the annual endowment of beds, 24 beds being endowed last year at a cost of Rs. 48 per bed. Native gentlemen probably prefer this form of charity to ordinary monthly subscriptions.

Expenditure.

198. Total expenditure in 1902 amounted to Rs. 2,08,270, or Rs. 20,015 more than in 1901. The largest increase occurred under the heads "Salaries of Medical Officers," "Construction and Repairs of Buildings," and Cost of European medicines and surgical instruments."

General.

199. The financial condition of some few dispensaries is unsatisfactory and would be still worse but for the assistance derived from accumulated balances under the head "Vaccination." In some instances, where the District Council's contribution to vaccination proved to be unnecessarily high, it has been reduced, and the grant to the Main dispensary increased accordingly.

Inspections were on the whole regularly carried out.

TREATMENT OF THE INSANE.

[Triennial Report on the Lunatic Asylums in the Central Provinces for 1901-02, and Table XV-2—8 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1902-03.]

Number under detention.

200. There are two asylums for lunatics in the province, one at Nagpur and the other at Jubbulpore. The average population during the year was 368, the figures for the Nagpur Asylum being 186 and that for the Jubbulpore Asylum 182. Of those admitted 73 per cent. were males and 27 per cent. females. There was no overcrowding as regards the total number of inmates, but the accommodation for females at Jubbulpore was found insufficient. Out of 317 remaining on the 31st December 1902, 81 were criminal lunatics.

Health and accommodation

201. At both asylums the health of the inmates during the year was poor; but Nagpur, with a daily average of sick at 5·71 per cent. and a mortality of 4·59 per cent., shows much worse figures than Jubbulpore. The bad health of the patients is ascribed to the effects of the famine of 1900, and to the prevalence of influenza in 1901. Attempts have been made to improve the diet at Nagpur. Moreover, the hospital accommodation at Nagpur is inadequate and a new hospital will shortly be constructed.

MEDICAL RELIEF.

202. Due provision is made for the employment and amusement of patients. Rewards are given to hardworking and well-behaved lunatics, and the system has been attended with good results. The Nagpur Asylum maintains a dairy farm, from which a net cash profit of over five and a half thousand rupees was derived during the period under report.

Employment of patients.

203. There were 170 patients suffering from mania (15 cases epileptic); 26 from melancholia, 85 from dementia and 17 from idiocy. The proportion of females in cases of dementia and idiocy was high. In more than half the total number of inmates the cause of insanity is reported to be unknown, which is due to imperfect enquiry. It was ascribed to moral causes in 59, to vice in 27, to epileptic in 17, to fever in 13 and to ganja-smoking in 15 of the remaining cases.

Nature and cause of insanity.

204. The cost of the Nagpur Asylum was Rs. 28,600 and of the Jubbulpore Asylum Rs. 12,300, the total cost being Rs. 40,900. To this sum receipts from patients contributed Rs. 4,000, and the value of articles produced in the asylums Rs. 2,800. Owing to the generally low level of prices during the year the expenses of ward and maintenance considerably decreased, and the average incidence of expenditure per head has now fallen to Rs. 82-5-4 at Nagpur and Rs. 64-6-6 at Jubbulpore respectively.

Financial.

5.—SANITATION.

SANITATION.

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces for the year 1902 and Table XIII-2—13 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1902-03.]

205. The most important sanitary works completed during the year were the following:—The storage capacity of the Ambajhiri Reservoir, Nagpur, was increased at a cost of Rs. 6,030, and fixtures were provided for the Residency at a cost of Rs. 6,030. The Bhandara Water-Works were completed at a total cost of Rs. 1,83,152, and a diversion of the Wainganga river stream, by the side of the supply well, was also made. The feeder canals of the Bhandara Water-Works were repaired at a cost of Rs. 1,856 and twelve private connections added. Earthenware piping, 480 feet in length, was also laid in the Chinta Haran Channel at Burhanpur. All the above works were undertaken by the Public Works Department.

Chief sanitary works.

Want of funds made it impossible to carry out any large scheme of drainage in Municipal towns, but in Nagpur and Jubbulpore some advance was made in the construction of road-side surface drains, and Rs. 2,025 were spent on the drainage survey of Nagpur. A scheme was also drawn out for the improvement of the Seoni water-supply, the estimated cost being Rs. 30,000. Rupees 3,250 were also spent on the improvement of the water-supply at Chanda and Warora. Apart from the above, no important sanitary works were undertaken by Municipalities.

206. The total income of the district head-quarters Municipalities for expenditure on the maintenance of the public health reached Rs. 10,95,494, some Rs. 45,000 more than in the previous year. Of this sum 31·78 per cent. were spent on sanitary works (original and recurring), 4·76 on medical relief, 0·07 on vaccination, and 1·37 on other sanitary requirements, the corresponding figures for the year 1900-01 being 33·29, 6·39, 0·07 and 0·78, respectively.

Income and expenditure on public health in head-quarters Municipal Towns.

207. Under the head of rural sanitation most of the work consisted of clearing village sites and maintaining village conservancy in the ordinary way. There was some small expenditure on village roads. Wardha was the only district in which there was much activity in the improvement of water-supply. As a remoter consequence of the scarcity and famine of recent years, the resources of the people in rural areas are still in many parts of the province straitened; and, so long as this is the case, much cannot be expected in the way of private effort for ends of public convenience. Since the close of the year a special grant has been made for village sanitation, and some progress should be effected during the current year. The new Central Provinces Village Sanitation Act came into force towards the close of the year, and the preparation of revised rules under it was undertaken. In the Nimar District rules under the Land Revenue Act were substituted for those under the Village Sanitation Act, with a view to greater simplicity of working in small villages. In Sambalpur the village of Jharsogra, which is a rising place, was brought under the provisions of the Village Sanitation Act.

Rural sanitation.

6.—VACCINATION.

[Notes on Vaccination in the Central Provinces for 1902-03, and Table XVI-2—8 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1902-03.]

The year's record.

208. The total number of vaccinations performed in the Khalsa and Feudatory States (including Dispensary vaccinations) during the year under report was 464,051 (398,065 primary and 65,986 re-vaccinatons), the percentage of success in primary vaccination being 97·13 and in re-viaccination 85·14. The average number of operations performed by each vaccinator was 1,598. The aggregate number of successful vaccinations reaches 442,820 for the year, a considerable improvement on the previous quinquennial record of 424,537.

With two exceptions all districts show an increase in primary vaccinations. The very high birth-rate of 1902, combined with comparatively low infant mortality, accounts in the main for the increase, but a contributory cause was the commendable activity shown by the vaccination staff in many districts. In Narsinghpur and Nagpur, where alone primary vaccinations decreased, and in several other towns and villages, the prevalence of plague undoubtedly interfered with vaccination work, and but for this disturbing influence and the withdrawal of some vaccinators for plague duty, the record of the year would have been even more successful. As compared with 1901-02 there was a drop of 9,019 in the number of re-vaccinations, due partly to the increased attention to primary work, and partly to the fact that where plague was prevalent, the rumour spread that re-vaccination was really plague inoculation. Of 357,679 children under one year available for vaccination (that is, the total births less deaths under one year in 1902-03) 283,891 or 79·37 per cent. were successfully vaccinated.

Vaccination in Municipalities.

209. The Vaccination Act was not extended to any additional town during the year. Of 20,777 children under one year available for vaccination, 13,475, roughly 65 per cent., were successfully vaccinated; a poor result compared with the provincial ratio. Steps are being taken to improve vaccination work in Municipal towns, where hitherto there has been no attempt to apply the provisions of the Vaccination Act.

The mortality from small-pox.

210. The mortality from small-pox was less than in the two previous years. Excluding Feudatory States, the proportion per 1,000 of population protected by vaccination was 38·65, a satisfactory increase of 6·52 on the year previous.

Lymph.

211. The numbers vaccinated with the different kinds of lymph were as follows. With fresh calf-lymph 226,369, of which 96·09 per cent. were successful; with glycerinated lymph 110,133, percentage successful 95·25; with human lymph 60,712, percentage successful 96·07; and with lanolinated lymph 1,321 only, with a percentage of success 76·38. In some districts, notably Raipur, there has been considerable difficulty in getting calves. In others, such as Wardha and Balaghat, there has been no difficulty and the calves cost nothing.

Inspection work.

212. Civil Surgeons and Native Superintendents were 533 and 3,026 days on tour, against 700 and 2,892 days respectively in 1901-02. The former inspected 15,301 primary and 1,047 re-vaccinations and the latter 52,096 primary vaccinations more and 5,196 re-vaccinations less than in the previous year. The result of these inspections, as compared with the figures reported by vaccinators, was on the whole satisfactory.

Expenditure.

213. The total cost of the Provincial Vaccination Department for 1902-03 amounted to Rs. 42,162-9-0 or Rs. 793-11-6 less than 1901-02. The decrease occurred under "Travelling allowance." Less touring was done by Civil Surgeons, who were tied to head-quarters in several districts by the prevalence of plague. The average cost of each successful case was Re. 0-1-10, or five pies less than in the preceding year.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

1.—GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

214. An account of this subject will be found at page 118 to 124 of the Report of the Administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1901-02.

2.—EDUCATION.

EDUCATION.

[Report on the state and progress of Education in the Central Provinces for the year 1902-03, and Table X-1, 2, 3-I, 4-I, 5-D, 6-J, 7-J, 8-I, 9-E and 10-I of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1902-03.]

Number of Schools and Scholars.

215. The year 1902-03 has been one of educational progress. The number of schools went up by 24, and has now reached 2,587, while scholars increased from 142,720 to 158,332 or by 10·9 per cent. This represents the highest level yet reached since the establishment of the Department in the year 1862. The improvement was common to British Territory and to Feudatory States, the latter accounting for 327 of the schools and 17,265 scholars. This increase in scholars is to some extent the concomitant of greater general prosperity, but it is mainly due to the opening of infant classes, to which an increase of about 9 per cent. must be attributed. It appears, however, that vigilance on the part of controlling officers is needed to prevent infant teaching degenerating into a mere swelling of numbers. In view of the outbreak of plague in various directions, and the fact that scarcity prevailed in parts of the province, the increase of scholars is specially satisfactory.

The percentage of scholars to children of school-going age was 8·8, a figure not much better than that of the United provinces in 1901-02 (6·33) and below that of the Punjab (8·14). The percentage of boy-scholars in British. Territory is much better, amounting to as much as 18·2, a figure which is fairly creditable having regard to the proportion of aborigines (13·5) and to the numbers contributed by low castes to the total population. The number of English learners declined from 7·04 to 6·01 owing to the temporary closure of schools on the appearance of plague in several of the largest towns. The increase among Muhammadan boys was insignificant, among non-Brahmans it reached 1·8 per cent., but among Brahmans as much as 4·2 per cent. The average attendance has improved in almost every district.

Effect given to the recommendations of the Educational Conference.

216. Good progress has been made in giving effect to the recommendations of the Educational Conference. The conversion of Aided and Combined System Schools in rural tracts into Board Schools and the improvement of the pay of Primary School teachers have so far been attended with good results. The abolition of the system of payment by results has been carried out without any difficulty. A matter in which improvement is urgently called for is the strengthening of the higher inspecting staff. The Deputy Inspectorate has been strengthened, and proposals have also been submitted for the appointment of another Inspector of Schools and an Inspectress of Girls' Schools. The rules regulating the relations between the Education Department and District Councils have been remodelled, and greater powers in respect of punishment and transfer given to the Department. The Middle, Upper and Lower Primary Examinations have been abolished, and proposals have been submitted for the introduction of a Departmental School Final Examination. Further, the question of increasing the number and value of College scholarships has been taken up, and the number of technical scholarships raised. The number of scholarships paid from Provincial revenues rose to 146 with an aggregate value of Rs. 12,600, and from other sources, mainly endowments, 31 scholarships of the annual value of Rs. 2,380 are payable.

Total expenditure on Education.

217. The total expenditure on education in British Territory in the year under review is Rs. 12,21,222 as against Rs. 10,31,279 in the previous year. Of this, 33·7 per cent. was met from Provincial Funds as against 37·2 per cent.

in the previous year, 34·7 as against 25·5 from District Funds, 7·6 as against 8·05 from Municipal Funds, 10·7 from fee receipts as against 14·0, and 13·3 as compared with 15·3 from other sources. As regards the expenditure in the different classes of institutions 4·9 per cent. were spent on collegiate education as against 5·9 per cent., 19·9 per cent. on secondary education as against 24·5 per cent., 39·01 per cent. on primary education as against 41·5 per cent., and 5·3 per cent. on technical education as against 6·7 per cent. The average cost of educating each pupil was, in Colleges of Arts, Rs. 206-6-0 as against Rs. 208-2-0; in Secondary Schools 25·4 as against 24·4, and in Primary Schools 3·9 as against 3·8. The figures show little variation from last year.

University Education.

218. The average number enrolled in Colleges has increased from 270 to 277. Fee receipts have risen from Rs. 12,779 to Rs. 12,988 in spite of the fact that no fees were levied for the last three months of the year owing to the closure of the Colleges when plague became epidemic. The cost to Government per pupil increased from Rs. 82-0-3 to Rs. 88-10-3. The management of the Hislop College at Nagpur was, under the circumstances of the year, successful. The strength increased and fee receipts rose, while expenditure decreased. Expenditure also decreased at the Morris College, but the fees also fell although the strength of the College has risen. The Government College at Jubbulpore was also unfortunate, as with slightly declining numbers, expenditure and the cost per pupil both rose considerably. The results of the University Examinations, especially the B. A., were uniformly poor, but this result was wholly due to the disturbing prevalence of plague and the closure of the colleges for some months preceding the examinations.

Secondary Schools.

219. Secondary Schools in British Territory have declined by 3 in schools and by 55 in strength, the falling-off being mostly in High and Vernacular Middle Schools. Fee receipts have decreased from Rs. 79,927 to Rs. 77,810 or by 2·6 per cent., owing to the closure of certain High and Middle Schools on account of the outbreak of plague. The High School scholarship Examination, which is now the test for the award of High School scholarships in lieu of the Middle School Examination, was held for the first time this year. The School Final Examination at the end of the High School Course is now likely to become more popular.

Primary Schools.

220. The number of Primary Schools in British Territory has increased from 1,853 to 1,867 and the strength from 109,650 to 122,413, or by 11·6 per cent. Fee receipts declined from Rs. 29,420 to Rs. 17,283. This is merely nominal, being due to the fact that fees in combined system schools were shown as local fund expenditure since these institutions were converted into Board Schools. The average cost of educating each pupil was Rs. 3-4-3 as against Rs. 3-3-6 in the previous year. Passes in the Primary Examination held for the first time this year under the new rules show little variation on the figures of the Upper Primary Examination of last year. Instruction has been pushed on in new subjects of a practical nature which are intended chiefly for the benefit of the cultivating class, such as village records, the use of the village map, the nature of the soils in the village area, the elements of tenancy rights, manuscript reading, and Bania's accounts. Patwaris have been associated with the School Committees in order to secure proper instruction in these subjects, and where possible the village Bania has been added for the Mahajani accounts. School-gardens, which provide the means of practical illustration of agricultural teaching, have also been extended. Deshi-kasrat has grown in popularity and is extending to other provinces.

Training Schools.

221. The schools for the training of teachers are the following:—Training Institution and Female Normal School, both in Jubbulpure; Male and Female Normal School, both in Nagpur; and a Male Normal School at Raipur. The Female Normal School at Nagpur was opened during the year.

The total number enrolled decreased from 228 to 223, mainly owing to the fact that the prevalence of plague in Jubbulpure prevented the opening of the class for the training of teachers of the Collegiate and Secondary Grades. The total annual cost was Rs. 34,506 as against Rs. 33,801, the increase being partly due to the opening of the Female Normal School, Nagpur. The cost of educating each pupil declined from Rs. 164-14-1 to Rs. 154-11-9. 119 passed the Teacher's Certificate Examination—1 the Collegiate Grade, 12 the Secondary Grade, and 106 the Primary Grade. In addition to these, 212

candidates appeared from the Training Classes attached to Vernacular Middle Schools in British Territory, of whom 71 passed. Steps are being taken to ascertain to what extent uncertificated teachers in Primary Schools are being replaced by duly qualified teachers.

Technical Education.

222. Some account of the good work done by the Agricultural School, Nagpur, has been given in the section on Agriculture. The school consists of three sections, one for the training of Revenue subordinates, another for the instruction of Primary Schoolmasters, and a third for providing the sons of agriculturists with a practical training in farming. The main education is given in the fields of the Experimental Farm, where the students take an active part in the actual operations of cultivation. Another popular technical institution is that of the Engineering Class at Jubbulpore. The curriculum of the institution has been recently changed so as to bring it more in accord with that of Rurki, and the course of instruction has been extended by six months, which are to be spent under the instruction of an Executive Engineer, the object being to give the students more practical experience of their work. The final examination of the Class had to be postponed owing to the plague epidemic.

Female Education.

223. The number of Girls' Schools in British Territory has declined from 175 to 173, but the strength has increased by 5·7 per cent. Expenditure has declined from Rs. 1,00,212 to Rs. 94,582, the decline being mainly under Secondary Schools owing to the temporary closure of High and Middle Schools for Europeans in Jubbulpore and Nagpur on account of an outbreak of plague. Two important measures undertaken during the year for the improvement of female education were the provincialization of girls' schools, which were hitherto under the management of Local Bodies, and the establishment of the Female Normal School at Nagpur. Proposals have also been submitted for the appointment of a competent European Inspectress

European and Eurasian Schools.

224. The number of European and Eurasian Schools remained the same—16, but there was a slight decline in strength, probably owing to plague. The results achieved in the Scholarships and Certificate Examination have been decidedly better than last year, especially in the Primary Examination, where 107 passed against 88 last year. In order to improve the quality of the teaching in European Schools, proposals are under consideration for bettering the pay and improving the prospects of the teaching staff.

The Rajkumar College, Raipur.

225. The number enrolled in the Rajkumar College for Native Chiefs at Raipur remained at 22. The attendance during the year was excellent. The total expenditure increased from Rs. 15,400 to Rs. 15,859, whilst the cost of educating each pupil decreased from Rs. 733-5-4 to Rs. 720-13-9. The curriculum has been revised in accordance with the orders of the Government of India, and is now designed with the view of making the young Chiefs good landlords and efficient administrators. Provision has also been made for strengthening the College Staff.

General.

226. Sports and athletic exercises are encouraged in all schools, and the tutorial system, which was in an experimental stage last year, has been successfully extended and developed. The relations between the Department and District Councils have been harmonious, and School Committees have worked particularly well during the year. Out of the special Imperial allotment of two lakhs for Education much was spent on the erection and repair of school buildings, and the experiments made in several districts of entrusting the Committees with the supervision of these works have been attended with success.

Jubbulpore Reformatory School.*

227. The Jubbulpore Reformatory School was transferred to the Education Department in the year 1900. The number of boys at the end of the year was 152, the average for the last five years being 172.

The license system is working well. Twenty-two boys were sent out on license during the year and none were sent back for misconduct or badly reported on. Steady endeavour is being made to give a sound industrial training at the school. A new feature was the grading of the boys in standards according to their proficiency in the particular trades. Rewards were given to boys who turned out good work and to the trade masters who taught them. The institution is doing well.

* (Report on the Reformatory School at Jubbulpore in the Central Provinces for the year 1902 and Table XI-4 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1902-03.)

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

3.—LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

[Table XII of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1902-03.]

The publications of the year.

228. The total number of books of all kinds published during the year was 45, of which 34 were original works and the remaining 11 re-publications. The subjects treated were poetry (19); religion (7); language primers and glossaries (8); history (3); agriculture (2); general reviews (2), and mathematics, law, science and drama (1 each). Four of the books were written in English, 12 in Marathi, 20 in Hindi, 5 in Uriya, 2 in Sanskrit, 1 in English and Hindi and 1 in English and Marathi. The two Sanskrit publications were both collections of prayers, set to verse. None of the books were of any special interest.

The Vernacular Press.

229. Nine papers were published during the year, namely, the *Desha Sewak*, *Tikakar*, *Subodh Sindhu*, *Shubh Chintak*, *Sambalpur Patriot*, *Gao Raksha* (in Hindi and Marathi separately), *Chhattisgarh Mitra* and *Hindi Master*. Extracts from these papers were published weekly and distributed as usual to various Government officers. The general tone of the papers has on the whole been moderate and circumspect as in former years. The first five occasionally contain comments on Government policy, which are, as a rule, frank and outspoken, but do not exceed the bounds of fair criticism. Not one of these papers is read outside the province or has any great circulation in it. The Vernacular Press in the Central Provinces has, in fact, very little influence. The *Nagpur and Berar Times* contains now and then announcements of purely local interest, but the paper has no standing, and is seldom read by Europeans.

Printing Presses.

230. There are 27 private printing presses distributed through the following ten districts of the province:—Nagpur, Jubbulpore, Saugor, Raipur, Hoshangabad, Narsinghpur, Seoni, Chhindwara, Nimar and Sambalpur.

LITERARY SOCIETIES.

4.—LITERARY SOCIETIES.

231. The number of literary and philanthropic societies rose from 52 to 54 during the year 1902-03. There are some fair libraries at the head-quarters of districts, but most of the societies do no more than take in a few newspapers and periodicals for a reading-room. A few meet periodically to discuss religious and social questions. A list of the best known societies will be found at page 130 of last year's Administration Report. The two new societies started during the year were the Hitkarni Sabha High School Literary Association at Jubbulpore and the King Edward Reading Club at Mandla. The Hitkarni Association has struck out a new line, its object being to encourage the students to practise public-speaking.

5.—ARTS AND SCIENCES.

[Report on the Department of Agriculture, Central Provinces, for the year 1902-03.]

Museums.

232. The Provincial Museum at Nagpur and the local one at Raipur are the only institutions of this class in the Province.

The daily average number of visitors to the Nagpur Museum was 283 as against 358 in the previous year, the decrease being apparently due to the prevalence of bubonic plague. Some important additions were made during the year, notably a collection of horn work from Ratnagiri in the Bombay Presidency, a collection of jewellery from Chanda, and of leather and cotton prints from the same district. The jewellery, leather and cotton prints are duplicates of the specimens ordered for the Delhi Arts Exhibition. To the coin cabinet 36 additions were made, which were principally gifts by the Government of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. The Museum is now in better order than it was last year. Some useless exhibits have been removed and additional cases have been prepared in which exhibits can be kept in good order, and yet suitably displayed. Much still remains to be done, more particularly in the classification and arrangement of exhibits. The number of visitors to the Museum at Raipur shows a large increase from 102,874 to 134,254. The principal additions to the Museum consist of some brass utensils of local manufacture from Bilaspur, this

being the first step towards a collection of local manufactures of the Chhattisgarh Division. The District Council has increased its annual contribution from Rs. 400 to Rs. 500.

The subject of the Provincial monograph for 1902 was wood-carving. The general conclusion to which the enquiry led was that the practice of the art does exist in these provinces, and can on occasion produce fairly creditable, if somewhat stereotyped, results. There is, however, no demand for wood-carvings and little prospect that one will arise, so that there is some danger that the art will die out at no very remote date.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

[For further information see Archæological Survey of India (New Series), Volume XIX.]

233. This Department was not under regular provincial management during the year, but on application being made to the Director-General of Archæology for professional assistance in the matter of the conservation of ancient monuments and buildings, arrangements were made for placing the Central Provinces in the Circle of the Bombay Surveyor, Mr. H. Cousens. Meanwhile, general enquiries have been progressing throughout the year in every district in order to ascertain (*a*) how far the list, contained in Volume XIX of the Archæological Survey of India, of the antiquarian remains of this province required revision, and (*b*) what ancient monuments and buildings should be maintained at Government expense. These enquiries were drawing to a close at the beginning of the current year.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

1.—ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION.

ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION.

234. As there was no Bishopric in the Province in 1901-02, this subject was not treated in last year's report.

2.—ECCLESIASTICAL.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

The new Bishopric of Nagpur.

235. During the year arrangements were made for the constitution of the new Bishopric of Nagpur, and the appointment of the Reverend Eyre Chatterton, D.D., to be its first Bishop. The Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions of the Central Provinces are defined as the Diocese of the See of Nagpur by the Letters Patent constituting the See, but the new Bishop will also exercise episcopal functions in the Saugor and Nerbudda Divisions, in Berar, in all stations in Central India excepting Nimach, and in all stations of Rajputana excepting Mount Abu.

The Letters Patent were dated 6th February 1903, but the new Bishop did not assume charge of his Diocese till after the close of the year.

3.—STATIONERY.

STATIONERY.

236. The cost of the stationery used in the offices of the Central Provinces during 1902-03 was in all Rs. 63,212 against Rs. 51,350 of the previous year. The increase is due to the extra expenditure of Rs. 4,000 by the Public Works Department owing to the formation of the Irrigation Branch, and the heavy rise of nearly Rs. 6,000 in the office of the Commissioner of Settlements and Agriculture, on which much additional work has been thrown in connection with the issue of the Hindi Agricultural Gazette and its connected publications. On the other hand, owing to the large stocks in hand at the beginning of the year, the cost of stationery for the Secretariat and Nagpur Jail Presses fell from Rs. 59,562 to Rs. 39,409.

4.—GENERAL—MISCELLANEOUS.

GENERAL—MISCELLANEOUS.

The registration of rainfall.

237. No new rain-guage station was established nor any abolished during the year. The number maintained was 86, of which 10 are observatories under the superintendence of the Meteorological Department. Of the remaining 76, which are under the superintendence of the Department of Agriculture, 9 are under the management of the Medical Department, 16 are maintained by Feudatory States, while the rest are in charge of either Kanungos or Police Muharrirs. The number of inspections rose to 106 against 94 in the preceding year and 63 in 1900-01. The defects generally found were faults in the fixing of the rain-gauges, disrepair of the railings, and interference by trees in the rainfall. It was found necessary in only one case to remove the gauge to a more suitable site. The general results attained during the year show a distinct improvement.

Co-operation with the Reporter on Economic Products.

238. The collection of Indian edible gums for the Reporter on Economic Products to the Government of India has now almost been completed. Botanical specimens of the gum, flower and fruit of the following species, received from the Jubbulpore, Mandla, Seoni, Betul, Bhandara and Sambalpur Districts, were sent to the Reporter:—(1) Acacia arabica, (2) Acacia lencophlæa, (3) Acacia catechu, (4) Anogeissus latifolia, (5) Boswellia thurifera, (6) Terminalia belerica, (7) Diospyros tomentosa, (8) Odina wodier, (9) Sterculia urens, (10) Buchanania latifolia and (11) Terminalia tomentosa.

GENERAL—MISCELLANEOUS.

Moreover, the investigation into the forms of dioscorea (yams) was continued during the year and specimens of different varieties, which were collected in the Damoh, Chanda and Nagpur Districts, were sent to the Reporter.

The following collections were also supplied to the Reporter:—

(1) The seed and pods of two varieties of chillies (*capsicum*), locally know as *dholri* and *diwani*, together with information concerning the methods of cultivation,

(2) Botanical specimens of three varieties of pán (*piper betle*) collected in the Nagpur District, with information concerning the methods of cultivation,

(3) The fruits and gum of *bassia latifolia*—mahua, collected in the Jubbulpore District, and

(4) Samples of stones collected in the Sambalpur District. On examination the stones have proved to be forms of jasper, with the one exception of a mica schist.

During the year under report samples of different varieties of food-grains were obtained from each district of the Provinces. These will be grown on the Experimental Farm at Nagpur, and botanical specimens of the flowers, fruits, seeds, &c., of every variety of every crop cultivated will be supplied to the Reporter for the Indian Museum, Calcutta.

Co-operation with the Agricultural Chemist.

239. The Agricultural Chemist to the Government of India has asked for assistance in the collection of samples for an enquiry into the value of the ordinary cattle foods of India, such as oil-cake, cotton-seed, the straw, husks, leaves and pods (*bhusa*) of cereals and pulses, and the like. A large number of samples has been sent from the districts of the Central Provinces, and the results of the analyses are awaited with interest.

Special enquiries.

240. An enquiry was also held during the year into the paralysis caused by the consumption of teora or lakh (*lathyrus sativus*) by Major Buchanan, I. M. S., and his report is awaited. During the next cold season it is the intention of the Administration to convene a small Committee for the purpose of investigating and suggesting improvements in the excise system of the province.

Secretariat Press, Nagpur:—T. P. R., 22-12-1903—350.

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CENTRAL PROVINCES

Scale 1 Inch = 80 Miles or $\frac{1}{5\,068\,800}$

100 50 0 100

78° 82° 24° 20°

CENTRAL INDIA AGENCY
CENTRAL PROVINCES
BENGAL
BERAR
HYDERABAD
BOMBAY PRESIDENCY
MADRAS PRESIDENCY
BAY OF BENGAL

Gonda Lalitpur Tehri U. PROVINCES Bgawar Nagod Sohagal Rewah Son R. Sagor Damoh Narsinghgarh Bhopal Dewas Indore Hoshangabad Narbudda R. Narsinghpur Hirsingpur Jubbulpore Lohardaga Ranchi Bengal Nagpur Ry. Mhow Mortakka Makrai Khandwa Betul Multai Chhindwara Pench R. Neimpur Mandla Amarkantak Maltin Korba Bilaspur Kawarda Raigarh Sambalpur Bargarh Balaghat Gondia Chikalda Ellichpur Burhanpur Tapti R. Kamptee Nagpur Bhandara Wainganga R. Wardha R. Amraoti Wardha Buldhana Akola Yeotmal Wunna R. Bhuganghat Warora Brahmapur Mehkar Basim Painganga R. Mahur Hingoli Purna R. Godavari R. Nanded Kandhar Manjira R. Kamlakar Yelgandal Rahat Shahapur Gulbarga Nizam's Ry. Warangal Bolaram Hyderabad Dornakal Khamamet Parlakot Raigarh Nawagarh Rankor Bhundesur Junagarh Omerkot Kasipur Basta Jugdalpur Indravati R. Bhopalpatnam Dantewara Jeypore Chanda Godavari R. Chintalnar Kolab R. Bodakambeni Vizianagram Dumagudam Sileru R. Vizagapatam Chicacole Kalingapatam Ganjam Chilka lake Tani Jeypore Ry. Bengal Nagpur Ry. G.I.P. Ry. B.N. Ry. M.M. Ry. H.E.H. Nizam's Ry.

Reference.

Nimar..... 1

Reg No.608, Secy., Ch. Commr., C. P.—Nov. 03—330.+25

With additions to 1903

Litho, S. I. O., Calcutta.

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES & BERAR

FOR THE YEAR

1903-1904.

Agents for the sale of Books published by the Central Provinces Administration.

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ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

FOR

THE YEAR 1903-04.

PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Introductory.

1. The report deals with the administration of the province of Berar as well as with that of the Central Provinces. Berar having been amalgamated with the Central Provinces since October 1903, it has been decided to discontinue the preparation of a separate report for that province. Owing to the impossibility, at present, of combining the section on Berar finance with that dealing with the finances of the Central Provinces, the present report has slightly exceeded its usual limits.

Changes in the Administration.

2. The Honourable Mr. J. P. HEWETT, C.S.I., C.I.E., who assumed the office of Chief Commissioner in September 1902, held charge of the province till March of 1904, when he was succeeded by the Honourable Mr. F. S. P. LELY, C.S.I.

Berar and the Central Provinces.

3. Berar, which lies along the south-west boundary of the Central Provinces, touching the border districts of Chanda, Wardha, Nagpur and Nimar, possesses many features which differ widely from those of the Central Provinces. The mere totals of the area, population and land-revenue of the two countries are in themselves sufficient to emphasize this divergence. Berar is a country of some 17,700 square miles extent, of which about eight-elevenths is occupied for agriculture, supporting a population of about $2\frac{3}{4}$ millions and yielding a land revenue of 78 lakhs of rupees. The Central Provinces cover some 116,000 square miles, support a population of 12 million souls, and yield a land-revenue of about 85 lakhs of rupees, the occupied area being only a little more than three-elevenths of the total. The agricultural population is therefore relatively even more important in Berar than in the Central Provinces: the unoccupied area of the former country is comparatively insignificant, while its wealth in proportion to its area and population is greater. This difference between the two countries is based mainly upon natural differences in soil and land formation and consequent power of production. The greater portion of Berar consists of an extensive undulating plain of rich black soil well suited to the growth of cotton and juar. In the Central Provinces, there are wide stretches of hill and jungle, and in the level tracts much of the soil is of a lighter kind adapted only to the growth of rice or the smaller millets, the chief exceptions being the wheat country of the Nerbudda valley and the districts of the Nagpur Division, which border on Berar to the east and which resemble the latter in many respects.

Features of the year.

4. In reviewing the agricultural results of the year the fortunes of what may be called the Nagpur country may be regarded as almost identical with those of Berar, while they contrast strongly with those of many other districts in the Central Provinces. After the weak monsoon of 1902, while plentiful harvests were reaped in Berar and round Nagpur, there was considerable distress in Chhattisgarh and the rice districts; and in the northern wheat countries the defect in the actual rainfall was only atoned for by its unusually even distribution. In 1903, in contrast with the year before, the rain over the whole province was extremely heavy, and at once the rice tracts reaped a splendid harvest, while a bumper wheat crop in the north was only prevented by the absence of rain in January. Cotton and juar, however, were comparative failures, the crops being damaged and in some cases ruined by excessive moisture. This veering of prosperity from west to east, though no doubt a disappointment to the people of Nagpur and Berar, was of enormous benefit to the province as a whole. The cotton countries were well able to withstand such a temporary check. They never suffered in the famine era as other portions of the province did, and even this year the defect in the cotton crop was largely mitigated by the height of the market prices. The cultivators were quick too in adapting themselves to the altered conditions, and wherever the failure of the autumn crop was a serious one they ploughed up the land to sow it with some cold-weather staple. While, then, prosperity was only tempered by an adverse season in the west, it was elsewhere widespread and unquestionable, with the result that the monsoon of 1903 brought with it more material advantage to the province as a whole than it has known for the last 10 years.

Relations with Feudatory States.

5. The Feudatory States, situated for the most part in the east of the provinces, reaped the benefit of the abundant rain. Prior to the monsoon of 1903 the condition of two of the States gave ground for some alarm, but the distress was merely local and temporary and all trace of it vanished in the autumn. Elsewhere the condition of the people, even in the early part of the year, was vastly better than that of their neighbours in the adjoining British districts, where the season of 1902 had been an adverse one, and they were therefore all the better equipped to take full advantage of the excellent harvest in the later months. The trade of the year was quite up to the normal, while prices were fairly low throughout. The year, moreover, ended amid quite unusual plenty, which at once converted the general outlook into one of considerable promise. Almost every department of the administration in the States profited directly or indirectly by the general prosperity. Finances improved, education made a remarkable advance, especially among the lowest classes, and crime decreased. The welfare of the community at large was reflected in the increased birth-rate, in the rise of the revenue from excise receipts, and in the almost total absence of emigration. The record of the year was alone marred by the loss of three members of the ruling families, among whom special mention must be made of Raja Sir Sudhal Deo of Bamra, whose death removed one of the most distinguished representatives of the older generation of the Chhattisgarh Feudatory Chiefs. Cordial relations continue to be maintained between the Feudatory Chiefs and the officers of Government.

Condition of the people.

6. Further improvement was manifest this year in the material welfare of the people of Berar and of the Central Provinces. The progress of the rice-growing districts, which had been hampered by the inadequate rainfall of 1902, received a powerful impetus from the rich harvest of the succeeding autumn. Elsewhere the level of prosperity was more than maintained. Cultivation expanded

beyond the wide limits of the previous year, and trade was unusually good. The north had not seen such a wheat crop for the last ten years, and in the west the loss caused by a comparatively poor outturn of cotton was more than compensated for by the keenness of the market. The rise in the excise revenue, the increase in the agricultural live-stock, and above all the expenditure incurred by the people at large in the purchase of imported wares, are the clearest indications of a further advance in material comfort and prosperity, which even the prevalence of plague was unable to restrain.

Realization of the revenue.

7. The rainfall of 1902 was below the average throughout the Provinces, but the season was nevertheless a very prosperous one both in the northern districts and in the Nagpur country and Berar. Only in the rice tracts, where the rain was altogether insufficient, was there a failure of the staple crop. As a consequence of this failure 9 lakhs of revenue were remitted and $6\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs suspended, of which latter sum the greater portion had also eventually to be remitted. The balance, however, demanded from the people was realized practically in full, while in the more prosperous parts of the province sufficient was collected to effect a very substantial reduction of arrears. This excellent result was, moreover, attained with very little difficulty, coercive processes of every kind being resorted to in a far less degree than had been found necessary in the previous year.

Surveys.

8. The traverse survey of 41 square miles was completed by the Imperial Survey Department, and the cadastral survey of 14 square miles was carried out in Nimar. The old measurements in the Wun and Kelapur Taluqs in Berar were also checked and passed as correct.

Settlements.

9. Settlement operations were in progress during the year in the Sambalpur, Chanda and Mandla Districts, in the Zamindaris of the Raipur District, and in the ryotwari villages of Nimar, Betul and Chhindwara. The work was completed in the Raipur Zamindaris, and was very nearly concluded in Nimar, Betul and Chhindwara. It was noticed in last year's report that, owing to repeated crop failures, settlement operations had had to be discontinued over the greater part of the Raipur khalsa. Proposals for the resumption of these operations have now been sanctioned by the Government of India.

Land Records.

10. The re-organization in 1902 of the Land Record staff in Bilaspur was followed this year by a similar measure in the Raipur District. The superior staff of Revenue Inspectors and Assistant Superintendents of Land Records was increased, and the number and pay of the village accountants was raised, so as to secure greater accuracy in the village papers, the maintenance of which is troublesome in rice tracts, where the fields are minutely sub-divided. In Berar an equally important step was taken in the extension of the system of Land Record supervision, introduced into Akola and Buldana in 1901, to the other four districts of that Division. In addition to these measures of re-organization, the work of revising and modifying the form of several of the village papers was also undertaken during the year, while the usual staff was employed in checking boundary-marks and the detailed records of cultivation. The work as a whole was carried out in a satisfactory manner, and the results do credit to the energy and thoroughness of the superior members of the department.

Waste Lands.

11. In the Central Provinces no less than 1,519 square miles of waste land have now been disforested and thrown open to cultivation under ryotwari tenure,

of which 30,000 acres, bearing an assessment of Rs. 10,693, were actually allotted to ryots during the year. This brings the total allotment up to the present to 592,286 acres with an assessment of Rs. 1,93,910 ; while an area of 379,786 acres is still available for allotment. The demand for waste land is still not very strong.

Estates under Court of Wards.

12. Following the policy of recent years the number of estates under Government management in the Central Provinces was further reduced during the year from 122 to 107, and the general income and expenditure fell therefore in proportion. The rental collections were particularly good, but the income from forests was nearly half a lakh less than that of the preceding twelve months. The reduction of debt, however, which is, after all, the main object of Government management, shows that good progress was made. The amount of debt paid off by the more prosperous estates exceeded by Rs. 20,000 the sum devoted to this object in the previous year, while the net indebtedness of all the estates decreased from Rs. 17,00,788 to Rs. 16,67,472.

The Revenue and Rent-paying classes.

13. The progress of the cultivators of the Wainganga Valley and of Chhattisgarh had not kept pace in 1902-03 with that of the agricultural population in other parts of the province. The success or failure of the rice crop, however, governs the fortunes of only a portion of the community, and while deploring this recurrence of scarcity in districts which have so often known the hardships of famine, it is satisfactory to record that at the close of the period under review the rice tracts were in the enjoyment of an unusually good harvest. In the other portions of the province conditions were very favourable in 1902-03, especially in the north and in the cotton districts. There was a general increase in the rent-roll, while the area occupied for cultivation was the largest that has been recorded for many years. The prosperity of the land-holding classes was also indicated by the increase of the agricultural live-stock, by the comparatively mild pressure that was needed to secure a full collection of the revenue, and by the ease with which tenants satisfied the demands of their landlords as shown by the fall in the number of rent law and ejectment suits. Their improved condition too may be inferred from the growing wealth of the community at large, to which reference has been already made—arguments from the increase of excise revenue and the expansion of the trade in imported wares applying with particular force to the revenue and rent-paying classes, whose welfare is essential to, and indeed constitutes, the prosperity of the country.

Police.

14. The number of offences reported to the Police was in 1903 the lowest that has ever been known in the Central Provinces. The excellent harvests in the north and west were no doubt responsible for the decrease in the number of petty thefts ; but it is remarkable that there was no rise in crime in the rice tracts, where the previous year's crops had failed. There was further a very general decline in the number of serious offences against the person and property, dacoity in particular being much less in evidence than usual. Coining offences fell by over 40 per cent. In Berar also crime was abnormally low, but the Police statistics of that division do not read well beside those of the Central Provinces. The conditions under which the Police work are somewhat different, as among a busy and well-to-do people it is difficult to induce persons to help in the detection of crime at the sacrifice of their business. The duties of the Police were, on the whole, performed satisfactorily. The number of rewards was greater

and the number of punishments less than in the preceding year. The results are the more creditable in view of the heavy mortality among the Police owing to plague, and the difficulty experienced in obtaining a sufficient number of suitable recruits.

Criminal Justice.

15. The number of cases brought before the Criminal Courts was lower even than in 1902, an unusually light year for the Criminal Courts; the decrease was common to police cases, complaint cases and offences under special and local laws. The number of murders was somewhat greater than usual, and there was therefore a corresponding rise in the number of death sentences. The work of the Sessions Courts was well done, but Courts of Original Jurisdiction did not show themselves as prompt as might have been expected in the disposal of their work.

Prisons.

16. A fall in the jail population was in keeping with this decrease in crime. The number of new admissions in 1903 was the lowest that has ever been recorded; while the total number of inmates was a good deal less than half of what it was in 1897. There was also a diminished percentage of juvenile convicts. Discipline was well maintained during the year, though in one instance at considerable cost. The health of the prisoners was good and accommodation ample. The profits on industries carried on in the jails increased by over Rs. 11,000, and in their internal management still further economy was shown. The general results were distinctly creditable and are no doubt largely due to the undivided attention it has been possible to pay to this department, now that its administration is independent of that of the Police.

Civil Justice.

17. The Central Provinces Courts Act was not passed till the beginning of 1904, and the full organization of the separate staff for civil judicial work was accordingly not possible during the period under review. Progress, however, was made in the matter of relieving Revenue Officers of all civil work with which they were not properly concerned, and in handing over the supervision of subordinate courts from the Deputy Commissioner to the District Judge. There was, during the year, a great decrease in civil litigation due partly to plague and partly to the possibility that existed in a prosperous year of settling money questions without recourse to court. A satisfactory consequence of this was a substantial reduction of pending cases throughout the provinces. The number of applications for execution proceedings was also very low. The results of the year's work were fair, but it is clear that the character of civil litigation is yearly becoming more complex as the wealth and trade of the community expand. That real difficulties exist has been officially recognized by the sanction given to the re-organization of the Civil Judicial Staff, and it is only after the new scheme has been developed that the work of the department can be fairly criticised.

Registration.

18. There was a rise in Berar in the number of compulsory registrations, and also in the number of mortgage-deeds registered during 1903. Elsewhere, however, there was a general decline in all forms of registration, the result being a fall in the total gross receipts on account of fees in spite of the increase in Berar. The causes of this divergence between Berar and the Central Provinces are not apparent.

Municipal Administration.

19. The general results of municipal administration were highly satisfactory. The total income of the 58 Municipalities in Berar and the Central Provinces exceeded that of the previous year by 2 lakhs of rupees; and as their expenditure

was only slightly in excess of that of 1902-03, the general balance at the close of the year had risen nearly to 7 lakhs. The rate of progress was somewhat uneven, the improvement in octroi receipts proving of enormous benefit to some of the more favoured Municipalities, while others did little more than maintain themselves at their old level. Since the passing of the new Municipal Act of 1903 the reduction of a few minor Municipalities to the status of notified areas has been under contemplation, but no steps were taken before the close of the year. The objects of municipal expenditure were the same as usual, education, sanitation and plague measures absorbing the bulk of the money. The Municipal Committees have, however, been advised, now that their surpluses are ample, to incur greater outlay in the construction of public works for the direct benefit of the ratepayer. The financial position of the Municipalities is, almost without exception, sound; and the relations between Committee members and Government officials have continued excellent.

District Councils and Local Boards.

20. There were 23 District Councils and 76 Local Boards in the Central Provinces and Berar, these figures being the same as those for the preceding year. The general income too of these bodies, excluding advances and deposit heads, was practically the same as before, no variation appearing in the totals for either area. In proportion to the population, however, the income of the Local Boards, and with it of course the average incidence of taxation, is far higher in Berar than in the Central Provinces. The general expenditure was somewhat less than in 1902-03, and there was a further rise in the closing balance of the Berar Division, which reached the high total of over 9 lakhs—a figure which it is now intended to reduce by wider expenditure on works of public utility as in the case of Municipal Funds. The usual expenditure was incurred on education and hospitals, &c., but there was a decrease in the outlay on civil works in the Central Provinces owing to all roads but village roads being handed over to the charge of the Public Works Department. All the Boards, with but one exception, were solvent at the end of the year.

The Agricultural Department.

21. Further developments were this year evident in the Agricultural Department, progress being made in the three fields of education, experiment and demonstration. Careful experiments were carried out at the Nagpur Farm and elsewhere, both in the direction of obtaining improved varieties of some of the principal crops, and of discovering methods for the prevention of plant disease, such as rust in wheat and smut in juar. The new farms which were started in the previous year in Hoshangabad and Raipur were got ready for experimental work, and demonstrations were carried out in various parts of the Provinces, with a view to introducing crops new to particular localities and showing the use of simple agricultural implements. Good work was done by the Veterinary Department, and the number of cases treated by members of the staff when on tour, as well as of those brought to the head-quarter dispensaries, was much higher than in the previous year.

Weather and Crops.

22. The rainfall of 1903-04 was in the Central Provinces one inch above the provincial average, and in Berar 7 inches more than the average for the last 10 years. The rain was particularly heavy in July and August, and in most districts was prolonged well into October. The fall in January was, however, defective. These conditions were as favourable to rice as they were unfavourable to cotton and juar, while the mean of success was

attained by the spring crops, whose early promise was denied fulfilment by the failure of the rain in January. An immediate consequence of the failure of cotton and juar was the extension of the area devoted to cold-weather staples —the farmers seeing in this a ready means of turning their land to some account. Rice gave a splendid outturn, though even better results would have been attained if the people of Raipur and Bilaspur could have had the courage to devote a larger area to this crop. The area under cotton decreased in the Central Provinces by 13 per cent. and that under juar by 21 per cent. The place of these last two crops was taken by wheat, the area under which increased by 26 per cent. in the Central Provinces and by more than 100 per cent. in Berar, and by gram, the cultivation of which was also abnormally extended. The yield of the year, indeed, was unusually good in spite of certain limitations, and the general excellence of the season was proclaimed by the lowness of the prices of grain and the remarkable expansion of the export trade.

Forests.

23. But for the excision of 100,000 acres of jungle in the Nimar District for purposes of cultivation, the area of the State-forests remained constant. Greater expenditure was incurred this year in demarcation and also in the extension of forest communications, the importance of which has been enhanced by the opening of new railway routes. As regards the internal management of the State-forests the best summary of the year's work appears in the excellent financial results which were obtained in Berar and in the Southern Circle. No new working-plans were actually sanctioned during the year, but important projects were under preparation in Balaghat and other divisions. Among sanctioned schemes considerable deviations from the original plan were thought advisable where the effects of the recent period of drought were still in evidence, or where there was a lack of demand for material. The energy of the staff was manifested by an increase in the number of forest offences brought to light, and also by the success that attended their efforts to protect the forest areas from fire—a task which was performed with very good results, especially in Berar, where the fire-season was an unusually long one.

Mines and Quarries.

24. The two coal mines at Warora in the Chanda District and at Mohpani in the Narsinghpur District did not yield as good an output as in the previous year. Coal was successfully found at Ballarpur in the Chanda District. The chief mineral output in the Central Provinces was obtained from the manganese quarries. The output from eleven concerns, which were classed as mines under the Mines Act, amounted to over 100,000 tons of ore, and considerable quantities were further obtained from the open workings, which were not so classified. The manganese obtainable in the Central Provinces is reported to be of a very high quality, and the industry is rapidly developing, particularly in the districts of the Nagpur Division. Continued activity was shown in the matter of applications for prospecting licenses and mining leases, 21 of which were granted for various minerals during the year.

Manufactures.

25. A still further increase was shown in the number of factories—consisting almost entirely of cotton presses and ginning factories—which are at work in the Central Provinces and Berar, testifying to the new and growing importance which is attached to the raw cotton crop. They now number 391 as against 315 at the end of 1902. Special attention was paid to the improvement of sanitation in the mills, and the provisions of the Factories Act were fairly well enforced.

Prices and Trade.

26. There was a universal fall in the price of food-grains as a consequence of the good harvests. Among other products too the decline was general, linseed in particular, and til in spite of a comparatively poor outturn, commanding unusually low prices. Cotton alone as a consequence of American speculation fetched a higher price even than in the year before. This strong foreign demand for raw cotton, together with the rapid expansion of the manganese industry and the noticeable increase in the quantity of surplus grain, were the main features of the export trade of the year. Exports from the Central Provinces increased by 7 million maunds in weight and by 83 lakhs in value. Those from Berar diminished indeed by one million maunds in weight, but rose in value by 67 lakhs owing to the price of raw cotton. Imports increased everywhere both in bulk and value, the demand for imported wares being sufficient to more than counterbalance the remarkable decrease in grain imports consequent on there being an adequate supply of food within the province. This increase of imports other than food-stuffs is perhaps the most remarkable indication to be found of the rising prosperity of the people. At the same time a comparison of imports generally with the enormous bulk of exports shows that the balance of trade is more than ever in favour of the province.

Public Works.

27. No Imperial works of any importance were undertaken beyond the construction of a few post-offices. On Provincial works more than 33 lakhs was spent on roads and buildings, of which about 13½ lakhs was spent on original works and the remainder on repairs, establishment, &c. Original works included the construction of Government offices and of residences for Government officials, while considerable sums were also allotted for additions to jails, police buildings, and the public asylums. The improvement of schools also received considerable attention, particularly in Berar. Ample provision was also made for the extension of roads. The total outlay upon original works of this kind amounted to more than 4½ lakhs. Road construction was in progress in all parts of the province, but more especially in the Hoshangabad, Nagpur and Eastern Divisions. In Berar, where roads have not been provincialized, the construction and maintenance of roads are carried on almost entirely at the expense of the Incorporated Local Funds, more than 2 lakhs being expended by them as against a corresponding outlay of Rs. 9,500 from these funds in the Central Provinces.

Irrigation.

28. In consequence of an abundant and generally prolonged rainfall in 1903 there was but little need for irrigation, and the cultivated area watered from tanks decreased by half. Good progress, however, was made by the newly constituted Irrigation Department. The work on nine irrigation tanks, originally opened to relieve distress in the rice countries after the short rainfall of 1902, was continued by contract when the famine operations were concluded. Six protective major works were also carried on, and two of them were practically completed during the year. In addition to all this, 2¾ lakhs was spent on field embankments and other minor irrigation works.

Revenue and Finance.

29. The prosperity of the country was clearly evidenced by the increase in the receipts on account of customs, excise and opium, and by the decrease in the sale of court-fee stamps. The gross revenue, excluding Municipal and Excluded Local Funds, rose by 6 lakhs—from 172 to 178 lakhs; of this Imperial revenues received 44 lakhs or six less than in the previous year, while Provincial revenues received 116 or 13 more than in 1902-03. After allowing for the increase in actual receipts, the differences in the distribution is due to an increased contributions

from Imperial in aid of the Provincial Revenues, to enable them to meet the constantly increasing expenditure. On the expenditure side there was an increase during the year of over 20 lakhs—the bulk of this being attributable to the remission of over 12 lakhs of irrecoverable loans which had been granted during recent famines. The introduction of the new irrigation scheme and the extension of civil works in charge of Public Works officers also help to account for the increase in expenditure.

Berar.—The gross revenue of Berar was 130 lakhs as against 135 last year, while the total expenditure declined by over 30 lakhs. The general revenues, classed as Imperial since October of 1902, increased by over 4 lakhs chiefly on account of unusually large receipts from excise, forests and land-revenue the increase under the last head being due to revised assessments having come into effect in some districts. Under expenditure, Imperial and Local, there was an increase of 25 lakhs, representing quit-rent paid to His Highness the Nizam. This increase was, however, more than counterbalanced by a decrease under other heads and the total expenditure was 23 lakhs less than in the previous year. The most important decreases were under Army, due to the fact that the cost of the Hyderabad Contingent was no longer debited against Berar revenues, and under Miscellaneous, under which head over 15 lakhs had been paid in 1902-03 to local bodies on account of their balances at the time Berar revenues became Imperial.

Vital Statistics.

30. It was hardly to be expected that the unusually high birth-rate for 1902 would be maintained in the following year; but the figures for 1903 (44 *per mille* in the Central Provinces and 48 *per mille* in Berar) are still among the highest that have been recorded for the last 20 years. The death-rate was considerably higher than in the preceding year. Plague, which carried off about 60,000 persons during the twelve months, was largely responsible for this; but the year generally was an unhealthy one, as is often the case where a heavy monsoon follows a year of unusual dryness. Small-pox and cholera were not very prevalent, but dysentery carried off great numbers; and fever, if the returns can be trusted, was responsible for as many as 160,000 deaths. Measures undertaken in a few municipal towns for the prevention of malaria gave no conclusive results, as they were obscured by the presence of the plague epidemic.

Emigration.

31. Only 3,367 labourers emigrated during the year to the tea gardens of Assam, accompanied by 1,026 dependants—a very remarkable decline as compared with the figures for the previous year. Excellent crops and a good local demand for labour were in themselves quite sufficient to account for this. An unusual number of garden-sardars had come down to recruit the labour, and the non-success of their efforts was, on that account, all the more conspicuous. The accommodation provided for the emigrants was sufficient and their health was good. The irregularities of various kinds which came to light in connection with the recruiting agency were neither very numerous nor of a very serious character.

Medical Relief.

32. Eight new dispensaries were opened during the year, bringing the total up to 245 for both Berar and the Central Provinces. It was noticeable that the total number of patients who came for treatment decreased as compared with 1902 by $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., although the year was generally an unhealthy one. Evacuation of the towns on account of plague is the explanation which has been given for this. It is remarkable, too, that although fever was, according to the returns, responsible for 48 per cent. of the total mortality of the year, the

number of fever cases treated at dispensaries decreased by about 70,000 The subscriptions from Government, from Local Funds and from native gentlemen were all larger in 1903 than in the previous year—the total increase amounting to more than four lakhs of rupees; but in Berar a much larger proportion of the cost is borne by the Government than is the case in the Central Provinces. The financial condition of the dispensaries was, with but few exceptions, satisfactory. The average population of the Nagpur and Jubbulpore Lunatic Asylums was practically the same in 1903 as in 1902. Accommodation was ample, but the health of the inmates at Nagpur was not good. The salaries of the establishment were raised during the year, and it is expected that further efficiency will repay the additional outlay.

Sanitation.

33. Some important works in connection with sanitation were in course of construction during the year at the hands of the Public Works Department. The Bhandara water-works, completed in 1902, were in the following year put in connection with the District Jail. The Burhanpur water system was also extended, and that at Harda improved. Nor were the Municipalities behindhand. Nagpur, Burhanpur and Wardha paid, perhaps, more attention to sanitation than other towns, but municipal activity in this direction was very general, and was much in advance of that displayed in 1902. Rural sanitation too made considerable progress, and good work was done in 11 villages of the Central Provinces. A special grant of Rs. 25,000 was also sanctioned for the improvement of the water-supply in villages, and a scheme for its expenditure was approved. The work itself, however, could not be commenced before the close of the year.

Vaccination.

34. A good year's work was done by the vaccinating staff—some 630,000 primary and 100,000 re-vaccinations being performed by the operators. The percentage of success with the former was 98 both in Berar and the Central Provinces. No new town was brought during the year within the scope of the Vaccination Act, but it was satisfactory to find the mortality from small-pox to be lower than in any of the three preceding years. The average cost of each vaccination successfully performed was the same in the Central Provinces as in the preceding year. In Berar the average cost was considerably higher.

Education.

35. Plague was everywhere the great obstacle to educational progress in 1903-04, but it proved far more detrimental in its effects in Berar, where the disease had taken a strong hold, than in other parts of the province. The efforts made to secure an adequate course of instruction for the pupils cannot be gauged by mere statistics of average attendance and the like. The mere fact that the proportion of scholars to children of school-going age was as high as in the preceding year shows that much greater energy must have been shown by the Department so as to negative the retrograde influence of plague. The total number of scholars at the close of March 1904 was in excess of the corresponding figure for 1903 by 7,700. Secondary education made very fair progress during the year, though results were somewhat obscured by a new method of classifying the primary departments of vernacular middle schools. The advance of primary education was quite unmistakable, the number of pupils increased, it was found possible to improve the pay of many of the masters, and in the Central Provinces the provincialization of girls' schools not only advanced the course of female education but also enabled local bodies to spend more on their boys' schools. Finally, a variety of important educational schemes were mooted in connection with the Morris College and Victoria Technical Institute, while among minor matters it was decided to extend the High School course to three years and to increase the number and value of Arts scholarships.

PART II.

CHAPTER I.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

At pages 1 to 52 of the Report on the administration of the Central Provinces for 1901-02 and at pages 1 to 25 of the Report on the administration of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts for the same year will be found an account of the following subjects drawn up for standard reference:—

1.—PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY, AREA, CLIMATE, &c.

2.—HISTORICAL SUMMARY.

3—FORM OF ADMINISTRATION.

2. [NOTE.—The following should be substituted for paragraph 21 of Part II of the Report on the administration of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts for 1901-02:—

21. The form of the administration of Berar was in 1903 entirely reorganized. Under the original settlement concluded by the Treaties of 1853 and 1860, the revenues of the Province were assigned primarily for the maintenance of the Hyderabad Contingent, such surplus as accrued from year to year being made over to His Highness the Nizam, while the Province itself was administered in trust by the Government of India through the Resident at Hyderabad. In November 1902, a fresh settlement was arranged and Berar was leased in perpetuity to the British Government. It remained under the administration of the Resident till the 1st October 1903, from which date it was amalgamated with the Central Provinces for administrative purposes. As the immediate result of this change, the offices of heads of departments in Berar, except the Judicial Commissionership and the Conservatorship of Forests, were amalgamated with the corresponding appointments in the Central Provinces, and Berar is now treated as one of the Divisions of these Provinces for purposes of revenue administration, with a Divisional Commissioner as its immediate head.]

4.—CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES.

5.—SYSTEM OF SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT.

6.—CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY.

7.—DETAILS OF THE LAST CENSUS—TRIBES AND LANGUAGES.

8.—CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

3. The Hon'ble Mr. J. P. HEWETT, C.S.I., C.I.E., held charge of the office of Chief Commissioner from the 16th September 1902 to the 18th March 1904. On the latter date he proceeded on leave and was succeeded by the Hon'ble Mr. F. S. P. LELY, C.S.I., who has since then continued to officiate as Chief Commissioner. The only striking change in the administration of the Central Provinces was that Berar was amalgamated with the Central Provinces with effect from the 1st October 1903 and its administration vested in the hands of the Chief Commissioner.

RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES.

9.—RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES.

[Report on the administration of the Feudatory States of the Central Provinces for the year 1903.]

Changes in the Administration.

4. The death has, this year, to be recorded of three of the Chhattisgarh Feudatory Chiefs—Raja Sir Sudhal Deo, K.C.I.E., of Bamra; Digbijai Jugul Kishore Dass, minor Chief of Chhuikhadan; and Maharaja Dhiraj Narhari Deo of Kanker. The last-named was succeeded by his nephew, to whose prerogative certain temporary conditions were attached owing to his inexperience in matters of administration. On the other hand, the death of the minor Chief of Chhuikhadan, who is succeeded by his younger brother, still leaves that State under the direct management of the Government, and in Bamra, too, no changes of importance have been required by the accession of Raja Sir Sudhal Deo's eldest son, as the latter has for several years past undertaken an increasing share in the management of the State. In Patna the restrictions imposed upon the powers of the Maharaja have been to some extent relaxed, and this policy may be extended if the experiment is successful. Similar proposals are being considered in the case of the Raja of Rehrakhol.

Rainfall and Crops.

5. The monsoon of 1903 was again a late one and was not well established till July. But it proved to be one of the most favourable that have been experienced for many years past, and the outturn of the autumn crops, upon which so many of the States entirely depend, was so satisfactory that the effects of the recent series of bad harvests have been almost obliterated. All the States report a full or nearly full rice crop, and bumper crops were harvested in many places particularly in the west. The area sown with spring crops was insignificant except in Nandgaon, Khairagarh, Chhuikhadan and Kawardha. Though the outturn in these States was on the whole below normal, it was fair in three of them, and but little less than a full crop in Kawardha.

Trade and Prices.

6. The sources of information as regards trade are unreliable. The returns of the various traffic registration stations are inaccurate, while the State reports are in some respects in apparent conflict with one another. Generally speaking, however, trade, especially in the Western States, was very slack during the first half of the year, though in the second half there was a marked recovery, and both exports and imports appear to have again attained at least their normal dimensions. The influence of the Raipur-Dhamtari Railway upon the trade of Raj-Nandgaon seems far less than was at one time anticipated: it is only natural to infer that the line is too short to tap the country effectually. Prices of food-grains on the whole were fairly low except in the four Western States, and even in these the fall from July onwards was so marked as to leave prices throughout all the States quite normal or even below normal by the end of the year.

Condition of the people.

7. There is strong evidence of a further marked improvement in the condition of the people in the year 1903. This evidence is to be found in the increase of cultivation, in the vital statistics, in the revenue collections, the decrease of crime, the comparative absence of emigration and in other features of the year's administration. The birth-rate also exceeded that of the preceding year. The only States which fared somewhat worse than their neighbours were Nandgaon and Khairagarh. These two States were in the earlier months of the year still suffering from the crop failure consequent on the poor monsoon of 1902, but the distress was not acute. It chiefly took the form of want of employment and was easily met by the opening of small relief works, and automatically by the spring harvesting and autumn sowing operations. No kitchens or relief to dependants on the works were found necessary, although some suspensions of revenue were granted and agricultural loans advanced. On the arrival of the rich autumn harvest of 1903 this purely local agricultural depression was at once relieved.

Finance.

8. The improvement remarked upon in last year's report in the financial position of the Feudatory States steadily continues. The six States under direct management have now all ample working balances, and some of them are accumulating reserve balances for emergent needs.

Land Revenue.

9. As a result of this general advance in prosperity, the land-revenue was almost everywhere successfully realised. Nandgaon and Khairagarh, where in the previous year famine had been imminent, were among the States in which

revenue collections fell short of the demand. Bastar, Patna and Kalahandi also showed diminished realisations; but in the two last-named States the defect was more nominal than real, while in Bastar it is to be explained by the unequal pressure of the demand in some of the deteriorated tracts. Elsewhere realisations amounting to 99 per cent. on the current account in the six States under direct management, and to 86 per cent. in the other States, were effected without undue pressure or difficulty.

Settlement.

10. The work of Settlement continued to advance. Assessment proposals were submitted for Bastar and Kalahandi and were practically completed for Sarangarh. These settlements concluded the programme of operations in the States under direct management. Among the other States settlement operations were in progress in Sonepur, Khairagarh and Sakti; and were under contemplation in Raigarh and Patna.

Law, crime and justice.

11. As regards crime and the administration of justice, neither the number of suits instituted, nor the character of the litigation, nor the rate of the disposal of cases, displayed any unusual feature which calls for comment. The general results were good. The faults of the Magistracy are those which are almost universal among Subordinate Magistrates, *viz.*, the tendency to issue processes too readily against accused persons, and neglect of the provisions of Section 203 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Closer supervision by Superintendents and Diwans is probably all that is needed to mend matters in this respect. It should be added that there is also a tendency to impose sentences of fine, and inadequate sentences of imprisonment for offences against property. But apart from these defects the administration of justice now stands upon a sound footing in all the Feudatory States, a most noticeable advance in this respect being apparent in the Sakti State. The results of police action were on the whole not unsatisfactory. Rules for the guidance of police officers in dealing with reports under Section 157, Criminal Procedure Code, are now in force in all the States, following more or less closely the rules adopted throughout the rest of the Province.

Jails.

12. The convict population of the jails averaged 991 persons in the present year as compared with 1,307 in 1902. Health was good and discipline well enforced. There is still, however, room for improvement in the differentiation of habitual from casual offenders, and in giving a more penal character to the labour to which convicts are subjected.

Forests.

13. The management of the State forests appears to be much below even a moderate standard of efficiency, and no permanent improvement can be hoped for until the present establishments are thoroughly re-organized and a systematic plan of operations introduced. Unfortunately no change of system was attempted during the year in any of the States, although it was evident that in none of them was there a proper system of conservation. Something, however, may be hoped for from the recent appointment by the Chief Commissioner of a trained Forest Officer to take charge of the forests of those States which are under the direct control of Government.

Excise.

14. As regards Excise management it is satisfactory to note that the revenue from this source has generally increased. There seems to be but little illicit distillation of country spirits, though ganja smuggling is still reported to continue.

Education.

15. In the matter of education the record of the year was one of substantial and general improvement. The number of all classes of educational institutions in the 12 States which now avail themselves of the services of the Agency Inspector of Schools increased from 276 to 289, the number of pupils rose by 26·1 per cent. above the figure recorded for the previous year, while the percentage of attendances amounted to 72 as against 70. The total percentage of children under instruction to children of school-age in these States rose from 5·9 to 7·3. Very satisfactory progress, considering the circumstances, has been made in the education of low-caste children in the Feudatory Circle. Eight schools were established during the year in places where people of low-caste abound, and the number of pupils of all castes enrolled in these was 417, with an average attendance of 75 per cent. Low-caste children have also been admitted to existing schools, but they are generally required to sit apart from the other

pupils. The total number of low-caste children in all the schools was 2,217 as compared with 343 in 1901 and 422 in 1902. No fees are charged in these schools, and articles required in tuition are supplied free of cost.

Raj-Kumar College.

16. The year 1903-04 has witnessed many changes in the Raj-Kumar College, having for their object the increased efficiency and utility of the teaching. The staff was strengthened by the addition of a first assistant master on a high salary, and of good social position. The pay of the general staff was put on a satisfactory footing in order to secure a wider choice of competent men, and a special drawing-master was engaged. The curriculum was given a more practical turn with the special object of interesting the boys of the college in all subjects connected with land, one member of the staff having received technical training at the Agricultural School at Nagpur for this purpose. The location of a model farm on the college premises ensures the instruction given being of a practical character, and this was further supplemented by the construction of a good garden for the study of horticulture. Pensioned native officers were specially engaged for instruction in riding and in gymnastics and drill. The question of religious instruction was also raised during the year, and the late Raja of Bamra had prepared a preliminary manual just before his death. This has been circulated amongst the Chiefs, and their opinions are being invited before taking further action. It is intended to build a set of improved messing-rooms as soon as the plans have been finally approved of. The health of the boys was well maintained throughout the year, and their conduct was all that could be desired.

Public Works.

17. Strict economy had still to be observed in the great majority of the States, and no large outlay on public works was possible; but the general improvement in the financial position and prospects of the States, to which a reference has been already made, allowed of an increased expenditure of some Rs. 50,000 over what was spent in 1902. Jail accommodation, rest-houses, a hospital, irrigation works and a dispensary room were among the objects of this expenditure, while considerable progress was made in road construction in the Kalahandi, Patna and Kanker States.

Berar.

18. There are no Feudatory States in Berar.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

10.—CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

The season.

19. The condition of the people in the Central Provinces and Berar during the period with which we have to deal cannot be adequately explained without a reference to the agricultural position both prior and subsequent to the monsoon of 1903. During the twelve months under review the tide of prosperity had time to turn in a remarkable degree away from the juar and cotton tracts of the Nagpur country and Berar back to the long-suffering rice districts of Chhattisgarh and the Wainganga Valley. The year 1903 opened with the anticipation that operations for the relief of distress would be necessary in almost all the rice tracts, while the very lightness of the rainfall in the previous monsoon promised and eventually proved to be extremely favourable for the cotton areas in the western country. Regular relief works were opened in Raipur, and the state of the people was for several months a matter for anxiety in Bhandara, Balaghat and Bilaspur. The crops in the Nagpur country, on the other hand, were excellent, and those in Berar but little below normal, with the result that these tracts attained almost unprecedented prosperity. With the arrival of the monsoon of 1903 this position was reversed, and it was the rice districts which gained the advantage in their turn. The continuous rainfall of July and August was unfavourable to cotton and juar in the heavy black soil of the Nagpur country and Berar. On the other hand, in the rice tracts of Chhattisgarh and the Wainganga Valley, the rains were exceptionally favourable, and a full or bumper crop of transplanted rice and a normal broadcast crop was reaped, no district in which this crop is of any importance returning less than a normal outturn. But although the relative prosperity of the cotton and rice tracts was thus reversed, the advance of the latter was vastly greater than the decline of the former. As a result it can now be safely stated that a whole decade has elapsed since the community at large has enjoyed such a widespread prosperity as has been attained since the rains of 1903.

Where excessive rain had done serious damage to the autumn harvest the people were quick to replace the earlier sown crops by cold-weather staples. In the cotton districts again, unfavourable though the season had been, any loss that might have been felt was largely mitigated by the rule of high prices, and it is believed that the area devoted to cotton during the present autumn will once more exceed all previous records. Further signs of prosperity in the cotton country were the high wages demanded and obtained by the labouring classes and the high price which culturable land commanded. For the provinces as a whole, the fall in the price of food-stuffs and the expansion of the areas occupied and cropped both indicate that another long step has been taken to regain the normal standard of agricultural security and prosperity which prevailed prior to the two great famines.

Trade.

20. The trade statistics too support this cheerful aspect of affairs, showing that even in the early months of 1903, after a none too favourable season, the gradual return to a normal condition of affairs continued. The export trade of grain indeed progressed only slowly towards its former magnitude, but the exports of raw cotton and oilseeds rose enormously. After the excellent monsoon of 1903 the country made still further strides—though progress was, not unnaturally, more marked in the Central Provinces than in Berar, the latter country never having suffered to the same extent from agricultural distress. In the Central Provinces for 1903-04 the amount by which exports exceeded imports in value was over 3 crores of rupees as compared with $2\frac{3}{4}$ in the preceding year. In Berar, though the bulk of exports decreased, the value of both imports and exports rose considerably.

Plague.

21. The one dark spot upon the record for the year lies in the virulent epidemic of plague which again appeared in many parts of these provinces. Nagpur, Kamptee, Jubbulpore, Wardha, Hoshangabad, Narsinghpur, and all the six districts of Berar, were the areas in which this disease wrought the greatest havoc. 35,335 deaths from plague were recorded in the Central Provinces and 16,179 in Berar, and even these figures are estimated to be 10 per cent. too low,—many deaths recorded under "fevers" and "other causes" having been undoubtedly due to plague. It is something to be able to say that during this trying time the attitude of the people has clearly undergone a change for the better. The silly rumours occasionally circulated as to the intentional dissemination of plague by Government officials are ceasing to receive credence, and there seems to be a growing, widespread confidence in the general efficacy of the preventive measures recommended. It is impossible to estimate to what extent plague has interfered with the welfare of the people. The countryman seems the least liable to loss on this account, for the field-work is always ready to be done if hands are there to do it. It is in the towns that people suffer when their homes have to be evacuated, when shops have to be closed, and customers scatter themselves in temporary houses over the neighbouring country. Trade too must be hampered by the hesitation with which people will approach a town upon which the disease is known to have settled.

Summary.

22. But widespread though the evil was, it did not assume proportions sufficient to enable it to counteract the forward impulse of a prosperous harvest. It is certain at any rate that in spite of plague the year has been a very favourable one to all classes of the people. If the birth-rate was lower than in 1902, it was still, putting that year aside, one of the highest that has been recorded either in Berar or in the Central Provinces during the past 20 years. Crime showed a marked decrease, the imports of such commodities as sugar, spices, provisions and manufactured metals—luxuries more than necessaries of life—increased, the area of cultivation extended, and labour of every kind was plentiful.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

1.—REALISATION OF THE REVENUE.

REALISATION OF REVENUE.

[Resolution on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces for the year ending 30th September 1903, paragraph 11 and following, and of Berar for the year 1902-03, paragraph 2 and following.]

In the Central Provinces.

23. In the Central Provinces there was a net increase of about Rs. 98,000, or $1\frac{1}{6}$ per cent. in the total demand of ordinary land-revenue on the roll, which at the end of the year stood at Rs. 85,26,448. The increase was almost entirely due to the falling in of abatements in the Hoshangabad District, where the demand was raised by Rs. 1,22,222 on this account. The abatements in the depressed tracts of the Narsinghpur, Betul and Wardha Districts led to a decrease in the demand from those districts. Owing, however, to the failure of the rice crops in the important rice-growing areas of Chhattisgarh and the Wainganga Valley, it was found necessary to remit or suspend large sums on account of the land-revenue in the districts of Raipur, Bilaspur, Seoni, Bhandara, Balaghat, Nagpur and Chanda. The total remissions aggregated over 9 lakhs of rupees, while the suspensions amounted to over $6\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, of which $5\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs was suspended in Raipur alone. Practically the whole of this sum has since been remitted, and it is expected that the balance will be collected without difficulty during the present year. Leaving out of account these reductions of the original sum for collection, it is satisfactory to find that the net demand on current account was realized almost in full, the unsuspended balance on account of land-revenue on the roll and not on the roll being together less than Rs. 30,000. The balance due from former years was also largely reduced. Rs. 1,14,000 out of a demand of Rs. 4,16,000 on account of arrears of land-revenue on the roll was remitted and $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs collected, leaving a balance of Rs. 53,000 only.

In Berar.

24. In Berar the story is the same. Of the total demand only Rs. 2,734 was outstanding at the end of July 1903 and all but Rs. 202 was reported to be recoverable. The arrears from the previous year were reduced from Rs. 1,32,965 to Rs. 84,150, almost the whole of which pertains to the Buldana District, and Rs. 72,000 of this sum was subsequently remitted under the orders of the Chief Commissioner.

Coercive processes.

25. It is noteworthy that this result was attained without the employment to the same degree as heretofore of the more severe coercive processes. In the Central Provinces while 15 estates were sold and 86 attached in 1901-02 for arrears which had accrued in regard to them, the corresponding figures for 1902-03 are only 4 and 57 respectively. In the earlier year 112 defaulters suffered imprisonment, while the figure for the later period is 8. On the other hand 1,166 notices of demand were issued as compared with 991 in the previous year, and these figures alone make it clear that no undue pressure was resorted to in the collection of land-revenue. So too in Berar the number of coercive processes compares very favourably with that of the preceding year, being less by about 55 per cent. The collection of the demand threw very little work on the Deputy Commissioners. No defaulters were imprisoned; only 10 sales of moveable property were held and only 31 fields out of 184 attached were actually sold.

REALISATION OF REVENUE.

26. The Central Provinces Government loan account (principal) is shown in thousands of rupees in the following statement. The figures are for the financial year ending 30th April 1903:— **Government Loans.**

	Under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.		Under the Land Improvement Loans Act.	
	With Interest.	Without Interest.	With Interest.	Without Interest.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Outstanding at the commencement of the year	12,06	21,78	3,17	4,02
Remitted during the year ...	1,57	1,63	7	21
Collected	3,97	4,83	66	47
Advanced	14,55	17	1,62	3
Outstanding at the close of the year ...	21,07	15,49	4,06	3,37

Of the $14\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs advanced during the year under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, a sum of nearly 14 lakhs, or 95 per cent., was distributed for the purchase of rice seed in the districts of Raipur, Bilaspur, Seoni, Bhandara, Balaghat and Chanda, where the previous harvest had failed. The whole amount was to be recoverable in one instalment out of the crop for which it was advanced, and as these districts were all favoured with an excellent harvest, realisations were made practically in full. This result, and the remission of a large amount of advances of old standing, for which special provision was made by the Government of India, have now reduced the loan account to within the paying capacity of the persons responsible for the loans. Of the Rs. 1,62,000 advanced as land improvement loans bearing interest, approximately three-quarters of a lakh was given out as the malguzars' share of irrigation works constructed on the grant-in-aid principle, chiefly in the districts of Balaghat and Bhandara.

27. Owing to the abnormal conditions of the year the rate of interest recovered on account of agriculturists' loans, calculated on the mean of the principal outstanding at the commencement and close of the year, varied very greatly from district to district. In some districts considerable amounts were collected on arrear account. The rate of interest for the Province as a whole was 2·43, which may be regarded as fair under the circumstances. The provincial rate for land improvement loans was 3·42 per cent. In Berar very little money was distributed under either the Land Improvement or Agriculturists' Loans Act.

2.—SURVEYS.

SURVEYS

28. During the field season of 1903-04 the traverse survey of an area of 41 square miles was completed by the Imperial Survey Department. The cadastral survey of 14 square miles was completed in the Nimar District and of 4 square miles in the Chhindwara Jagirs. Field operations were commenced in the Wun, Kelapur and Yeotmal Taluks of the Wun District, the current settlement of which expires in 1905-06. Two survey parties working under native surveyors and under the general supervision of a Settlement Officer were sanctioned from 1st November 1903. In the Wun and Kelapur Taluks, which were completed during the year, the old measurements were tested in all parts of the taluks, and in addition 5 villages were selected by the Settlement Officer and entirely re-measured number by number. The result was very satisfactory, and the old work was, therefore, accepted as correct for the whole of the two taluks. The old classification of soils was also personally tested by the Settlement Officer in 30 villages with equally satisfactory results.

3.—SETTLEMENTS.

SETTLEMENTS.

29. The orders of the Government of India were received on the proposals for the revision of assessment in the Saugor and Bhandara Districts. The review of the Commissioner of Settlements on the final assessment report of the Nimar District was submitted during the year and received the approval of the Government of India. **Assessment Reports.**

SETTLEMENTS.

Progress of assessment.

30. Settlement operations were in progress in the zamindaris of the Raipur District, in the khalsa and zamindaris of the Chanda District, in the khalsa and zamindaris of Sambalpur, in the ryotwari villages of the districts of Nimar, Betul, Chhindwara and Hoshangabad, and in the jagirs of the two districts last named. A few scattered ryotwari villages in other districts were also assessed.

Mandla.—Map correction preparatory to assessment in the Mandla District was undertaken and completed in 985 villages comprising an area of 1,571 square miles. Attestation was carried out in 581 villages, of which 390 villages were inspected by the Settlement Officer, leaving a balance of 1,476 villages still to be attested and 1,667 to be inspected at the close of the year. Records were completed in 390 villages covering 705 square miles. The cost of map correction in this district amounted to Rs. 15,388, and that of settlement operations to Rs. 29,691. The preliminary report of the Mandla Tahsil was also submitted.

Raipur.—Revised takolis or quit-revenues payable by the Zamindars of the Raipur District were fixed and announced during the year. The resulting increase, from Rs. 59,397 to Rs. 76,875, amounted to about 29 per cent. Adding Rs. 26,567 on account of cesses calculated on the kamil-jamas or revenue assessable, the total payments of the Zamindars amount to Rs. 1,03,442 as compared with Rs. 74,742 payable up to 30th June 1903, or an increase of 38 per cent. Care was taken to avoid imposing large enhancements upon proprietors who had suffered serious losses of income in consequence of the famines. In view of the large increase ordered in the case of some of the estates, a further measure of leniency, in the shape of a progressive assessment, was directed in the case of six zamindaris. Announcement of the revised quit-revenues brought the operations in the zamindaris of the Raipur District to a close.

Chanda.—During the year under report attestation and inspection were carried out in 673 khalsa villages and were completed in the zamindaris of the Chanda District. Rent-rate proposals in respect of 589 khalsa villages, 841 square miles in area, were submitted. The revised assessment of 197 villages, with an area of 304 square miles, was approved, resulting in an increase of revenue from Rs. 29,674 to Rs. 39,630. Fields were surveyed and records completed in 56 villages.

Sambalpur.—The operations in Sambalpur began with the attestation and inspection of 343 villages comprising an area of 485 square miles in the khalsa and of 1,329 zamindari villages (both summarily and regularly settled) with an area of 2,197 square miles, leaving a balance of 177 zamindari villages (365 square miles) still to be dealt with. Rent-rate reports of 246 villages (521 square miles) and assessment reports of 363 villages (619 square miles) were submitted by the Settlement Officer during the year, leaving a balance of 444 villages comprising 550 square miles to be rent-rated and 741 villages extending over 1,154 square miles to be finally assessed. The revision of assessments brought about an increase from Rs. 67,287 to Rs. 84,419.

Betul and Chhindwara.—The rent-rate and assessment reports of all the 86 ryotwari villages in the Chhindwara District and of 102 ryotwari villages in the Betul District were received and sanctioned during the year, the increased revenue amounting, respectively, to Rs. 1,731 and Rs. 4,145. The increment in both districts includes assessment of unoccupied survey numbers. Announcement of the revised assessment is now proceeding and will shortly be concluded.

Nimar and Hoshangabad.—Operations were approaching completion in the Nimar District at the close of the year. The rent-rate reports of 8 ryotwari villages, and assessment reports in respect of 190 villages, comprising 449 square miles, were submitted and approved. The revision brought about a decrease of Rs. 8,819. The assessment of 10 ryotwari villages in Hoshangabad also resulted in a reduction of revenue aggregating Rs. 1,453. These reductions were effected under Sir Andrew Fraser's orders. He found on personal enquiry in the Charwa tract, that the ryots in that locality were poor and migratory, and that the collections had been bad in many villages. This was partly due to the succession of bad seasons, and consequent scarcity and distress. It was also apparent that certain areas had been overclassed when originally assessed, owing no doubt to the difficulty of classifying land overgrown with scrub-jungle and grass.

Raipur and Bilaspur.—Proposals were received from the Settlement Commissioner at the close of the year for the resumption of operations in the khalsa of the districts of Raipur and Bilaspur, where the people have to a great extent recovered from the effects of the late famines. The orders of the Government of India have just been received sanctioning the continuance of the work.

SETTLEMENTS.

Amraoti and Basim.—Revised rates were announced in the Chandur Taluk of the Amraoti District. A decision on the proposal for the revision settlement of the Pusad Taluq of the Basim District has been deferred till a further report is submitted to the Government of India in 1908.

4.—LAND RECORDS.

LAND RECORDS.

[Report on the operations of the Land Record and Settlement Department in the Central Provinces during the year ending 30th September 1903.]

Establishment.

31. One of the chief measures of improvement undertaken in connection with the Land Record staff has been the revision of the Raipur District establishment. The number of patwaris was increased, 13 new Revenue Inspectors were appointed, while 3 additional assistants were given to the Land Records Superintendent. The patwaris' pay was raised and their work more evenly divided by a redistribution of their circles. Additional Assistant Superintendents of Land Records were appointed in seven districts. An important rule affecting the tenure of land by patwaris was introduced during the year, prohibiting the acquisition by a patwari of any proprietary right in land within his circle otherwise than by inheritance, and leaving such acquisition, even without his circle, liable to prohibition. Cultivating rights may not be acquired or held by a patwari, either within or without his circle, without previous sanction. As regards Berar the important revision of the supervising staff introduced into the Akola and Buldana districts in 1901 has been, since March of 1904, introduced into all the six districts of that division, but as this important innovation really falls beyond the limits of the period at present under review, no detailed account of it is called for.

Boundary marks.

32. Village boundary marks in the Central Provinces were reported to be generally in good repair, and the condition of the traverse stations was reported to be satisfactory. Extensive repairs to trijunction pillars were undertaken in Jubbulpore and Hoshangabad. In Berar, four months instead of five were allotted to the work of maintaining boundary marks, and inspection is reported to have been generally well done.

Utilization of land records.

33. Much attention was paid during the year to preparing and bringing thoroughly up to date the circle note-books which are now to be maintained in all tahsils throughout the province. The writing up of these books was completed in all but four districts of the Central Provinces. Much was also done to improve the state of the village note-book which is maintained in each village for the use of inspecting officers. This has been revised so as to give a complete and continuous agricultural history of each village since its settlement. Famine note-books for individual villages were still maintained during the year 1902-03, but there was considerable doubt as to their practical utility, and since the period now under review they have been abolished, their place being taken by the detailed famine programme which is being prepared under the orders of the Government of India. In Berar the work of filling in circle note-books was started during the year and was completed in 813 villages of Akola and 797 villages of the Buldana District.

Testing of Land Records.

34. Revenue Inspectors showed a fair outturn of work in the matter of checking village papers in the Central Provinces, while Superintendents and their assistants also exercised increased supervision. More checking too was done by Tahsildars and by Deputy Commissioners and their assistants than was the case in the previous year. In Berar the inspection of survey numbers in Akola and Buldana shows an improvement upon what was done in 1901-02, three months being devoted to crop inspection instead of two.

Conduct of Land Record staff.

35. In all districts of the Central Provinces the subject of compelling patwaris to reside permanently within their circles received considerable attention, with the result that the number who have permission to live outside their circles has been reduced from 203 to 190, and the number of non-residents without permission has fallen from 450 to 318. These figures are satisfactory considering how difficult it is to enforce such residence, and the ease with which deception can be practised by a merely nominal obedience of the orders in force. The work of the patwaris was as a whole satisfactory. It is true that the number of punishments increased by over 200 in the whole province, but this is in great part to be attributed to the closer supervision which has been rendered possible in

LAND RECORDS.

consequence of the absence of agricultural distress allowing more attention to be paid to ordinary routine work. The staff in the districts of Raipur and Bilaspur continues to be unfavourably reported on, but the revision of the establishment which has taken place in both these districts and the increase in the number of supervising officers may be expected before long to bring about considerable improvement. Revenue Inspectors also have not so good a record this year as last, 49 being punished as against 38 in 1901-02. But the work of Land Record Superintendents and their assistants is reported to have been generally quite satisfactory. From Berar the Commissioner reports that the work done during the year by the District and Circle Inspectors has satisfied him, and that though there is room for improvement, the utility of the agricultural staff has so far been well established. The number of patels and patwaris suspended and fined was lower than in the preceding year. There were naturally more punishments in the Akola and Buldana Districts, where the inspecting staff has been re-organized, than elsewhere.

WASTE LANDS.

5.—WASTE LANDS.

36. Waste lands suitable for cultivation have been disforested in several districts and thrown open for cultivation under ryotwari tenure. The area so made available for cultivation is about 1,519 square miles, most of which is situated in the Mandla, Nimar and Balaghat Districts. This area was increased during the year by the excision from Government forests of an additional area of 3,000 acres situated in the Hoshangabad District and 732 acres in other districts. The area actually allotted to ryots during the year amounted to 30,003 acres bearing an assessment of Rs. 10,693, whilst the area relinquished was 12,690 acres bearing an assessment of Rs. 4,083. Land was most sought after in the Nimar, Balaghat, Chanda and Seoni Districts. The total area allotted in these ryotwari tracts amounts to 592,286 acres with an assessment of Rs. 1,93,910, whilst an area of 379,786 acres with an assessment of Rs. 1,00,215 is still available for allotment. The explanation, that the deterioration caused by the famines and the decrease of population have temporarily lowered the demand for waste land, still applies in this connection.

GOVERNMENT ESTATES.

6.—GOVERNMENT ESTATES.

37. There are no Government estates in the Central Provinces or Berar.

WARDS ESTATES.

7.—WARDS ESTATES.

[Report on the management by Government of private estates in the Central Provinces for the revenue year 1902-03, ending the 30th September 1903.]

In the Central Provinces.

38 The policy of relieving the Court of Wards of the management of estates for which such supervision is unsuitable or productive of advantage incommensurate with the trouble and expense which the management entails was continued in the year under review. Considerable advance was made in this direction, particularly in the Raipur and Narsinghpur Districts, with the result that the number of estates under management fell from 122 to 107, exclusive of three estates managed under the Guardians and Wards Act.

Income.

39. The principal source of income in nearly all the estates of the Central Provinces consists of the rental payments of the tenantry, which yielded a total of Rs. 7,67,000 as against Rs. 8,78,000 in the previous year. The other main source of income is forest receipts, and these too fell in 1902-03 from Rs. 1,62,000 to Rs. 1,17,000. There was consequently a decrease of over two lakhs in the total gross income of the year, but having regard to the fall in the number of estates now under management as compared with the number in 1901-02 and the consequently smaller revenue demand, the decrease is hardly disproportionate. In fact, the rental collections were by comparison distinctly good, when it is remembered that in consequence of the partial failure of the monsoon of 1902 the autumn crops were extremely poor, necessitating large concessions in many estates of the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions. Turning, however, from rental collections to the income derived from the forests, we find that the results are not so good. The uncultivated area of the

WARDS ESTATES.

estates rose from under 2 million to $3\frac{1}{4}$ million acres due to the assumption of management of the Ahiri Zamindari in the Chanda District, and yet a fall was recorded in the income of nearly half a lakh. Much of this decrease is to be attributed to the failure of the harvest and the consequent inability of the people to pay for forest produce. The Ahiri forests are very valuable, and an experienced officer of the Forest Subordinate Service has been placed in charge with a view to their proper management. Attention has been called to the need for incurring reasonable outlay in developing the resources of estates which possess forests, and it is trusted that steady progress will be made in expanding this important head of income in estates under the Court of Wards.

Expenditure.

40. As regards expenditure the grand total for all estates for 1902-03 was about $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs less than in 1901-02. This decrease appears under practically all the main heads except that of "Investment in takavi loans." These loans naturally enough after a poor harvest showed a considerable increase, although the indebtedness of the majority of the estates prevented as much assistance being given to the tenants by this means as might have been desired. It is satisfactory to notice that the question of diminishing the proportionate cost of management has been receiving careful attention especially in the Nagpur and Nerbudda Divisions.

Improvements.

41. This year, again, very little could be done in the way of improvements in the estates of the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions owing to the pressure of their debts. While the amount thus expended increased to over Rs. 17,000 in the Nagpur Division, it dropped from nearly Rs. 95,000 to under Rs. 44,000 in Chhattisgarh: this decrease is due to the relinquishment of the Bindra-Nawagarh estate, which expended over half a lakh last year in improvements.

Debt.

42. The amount of debt which the more favoured estates were able to pay off from current income was Rs. 1,68,614 as against Rs. 1,48,342 in the former year, when the number of estates was greater. On the other hand, the debts in some of the most impoverished estates have been swelled by the addition of interest, which it was not possible to pay, and the net indebtedness of the estates under report has only diminished from Rs. 17,00,788 to Rs. 16,67,472.

In Berar.

43. There are no Court of Wards estates in the Berar Division.

8.—REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

[Resolution on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th September 1903. Report on the Revenue Administration of Berar for the year 1902-03].

General conditions.

44. By the close of the period to which the reports named in the head-note to this paragraph refer, the universal agricultural prosperity mentioned in an earlier section had not been finally established. We are still dealing with a period of distress in the rice districts of Raipur, Bilaspur and the Wainganga Valley—which though far from acute was all the more keenly felt on account of the succession of bad seasons which had preceded it. Still it was only in the rice districts that there was a setback on account of this further failure of the staple crop. Elsewhere conditions were far more favourable, with the result that it was found possible to secure in the year 1902-03 an increase in the rent-roll of the Central Provinces except in the Chhattisgarh Division. Collections were good in the northern districts, which enjoyed one of the best years on record and where, putting current and arrear realisations together, the receipts somewhat exceeded the full annual demand. In the southern districts the returns are obscured by the extensive remissions and suspensions which were granted, but in Nagpur and Wardha there was a marked increase of prosperity, both districts benefiting greatly by a succession of excellent cotton crops coupled with good prices, while agricultural credit reached a level higher than it had ever touched before. In Berar the outturn was not much below normal, the prices of all food-grains being lower than in 1901-02. The area statistics of the Central Provinces are further evidence that the year was on the whole a prosperous one. The occupied area in malguzari villages was the largest ever recorded, and though there was a decline in the area held by absolute-occupancy and occupancy tenants, it was but slight. The area, however, held in ordinary tenure increased by nearly 194,000 acres—an

Tenants.

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

expansion in which all divisions have taken part. The ryotwari estate too continued to expand, the principal increase in occupied area taking place in Nimar, in which district the ryotwari settlements have attained the greatest measure of success.

If, then, we exclude the districts of Raipur, Bilaspur, Bhandara and Balaghat, it is not too much to say that the tenant classes in the Central Provinces and Berar easily maintained themselves at their normal level of prosperity. In the western rice districts of the Wainganga valley, which were among those that suffered from crop failure, the labouring classes found that the good harvests in the neighbouring Nagpur country supplied them with a means of livelihood, which was further supplemented by the demand for labour in the new manganese industry and in the construction of the Satpura railway. A further proof of the returning prosperity of the rent-paying classes is to be found in the increase of the agricultural livestock in the provinces. Plough-cattle increased largely, the number of bulls and bullocks rising from 2,914,254 to 3,025,189. There was a similar increase in the number of male buffaloes, cows, young stock, sheep and goats.

Landlords.

45. The landlords naturally participated in the welfare of their tenants. It has been shown in the opening of this chapter how the net revenue demand on current account was realized practically in full and the balance remaining from former years reduced. It was also noticed that much less pressure than usual was needed to secure this desirable result. This is highly satisfactory and there is no reason to doubt that the malguzars of the provinces are in general gradually recovering from the losses which they have suffered in recent years. On the the other hand, the areas held as *sir* or home-farm show a tendency to fall, the process of extinction of *sir* by the sale of proprietary rights by impoverished landlords causing a decrease of over 18,000 acres in land held in this right. This is a feature which must continue to manifest itself, as the result of the indebtedness caused by the famines among the less substantial members of the proprietary body.

Relations between landlords and tenants.

46. In a year of steady progress over the greater portion of the province it is not surprising to learn from the reports of the various divisions that the relations between malguzars and tenants continued satisfactory. Notices for enhancement of ordinary tenants' rents were confined almost entirely to the districts of Narsinghpur, Chhindwara and Nagpur. There were only 1,644 proceedings for the ejectment of tenants in execution of decrees for arrears of rent as against 2,014 in the preceding year, while the number of civil suits between landlord and tenant for arrears of rent fell by nearly 25 per cent. In Berar, where the agricultural tenure is entirely ryotwari, it need only be remarked that the people were as usual quiet and contented. They well know that the rent they have to pay to Government is much less than what they could themselves get for their land, and so long as cotton prices are high and the seasons normally productive, it may be expected that their condition of affluence will be steadily maintained.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

1.—LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY.

47. The Legislative Authority for the Central Provinces and Berar is the Council of the Governor-General of India for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations.

2.—COURSE OF LEGISLATION.

COURSE OF LEGISLATION.

48. The only Act of the Imperial Legislature passed during the calendar year 1903 which specifically affected the Central Provinces was Act XVI of 1903 (The Central Provinces Municipal Act, 1903).

The Prisoners Act, III of 1900, was applied to the Hyderabad Assigned Districts during the year 1903.

3.—POLICE.

POLICE.

[Report on the Police Administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1903 and also Table No. VII of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1903-04.]

Crime.

49. One of the most remarkable features of the year was the unusual decrease in reported crime. The number of cognizable offences committed in the Central Provinces was the lowest on record, while in Berar the corresponding figure was 1,000 less than that of the preceding year. This was all the more remarkable, because, although the year was generally a prosperous one, the failure of the rice crop in four districts had in the earlier months caused considerable distress, and in these a rise in the number of offences against property might have been expected. Owing, however, to the ample demand for labour in districts within easy reach of the area of distress and to the prompt supply of tank-labour in Raipur, no such abnormal rise took place.

Offences against the State.

50. Cases of rioting, of personation of public servants and of escape from lawful custody were unimportant in character. Coining offences, on the other hand, continued to receive particular attention from the police, as the professional coiners from the Bombay Presidency have been more in evidence in recent times than formerly. The number of these cases in Berar and the Central Provinces declined indeed in 1903 from 75 to 49, but where detection of the prime offenders is so difficult it would be unwise to draw too favourable an inference from this decrease.

Offences against the person.

51. The general number of serious offences against the person was less by 148 than that recorded in the previous year; but on the other hand there were 11 more murders, no less than 47 murders being reported from the Chhattisgarh Division alone. No explanation is forthcoming for this unusual figure, the variety of motives which the evidence disclosed precluding the construction of any general hypothesis.

Offences against property.

52. The number of dacoities that occurred in the Central Provinces in 1903, *viz.*, 22, is by far the lowest figure on record. The way in which this form of crime has been repressed is most creditable to all concerned. Not only are the police active in their duty of bringing offenders to book, but village officers have learned to realize their responsibility in reporting and preventing these offences, while the population at large seem at last to recognise that dacoity is an offence that the Government is determined not to tolerate. Unfortunately affairs are different in Berar, where 42 dacoities occurred within the year. There seems to be unusual apathy in that Division both on the part of the village officials and of the local police in reporting these offences. However, even here signs of improvement were not wanting; and it is satisfactory to find that the numerical decrease since 1899 is very considerable. The number of robberies and house-breakings during 1903 was also small, while of those that occurred, the majority

were of a not very serious character. The general prosperity of the country is no doubt the cause of the marked fall in the number of minor offences of theft and the like, the figures for such for 1903 being the lowest on record.

Police action.

53. In the Central Provinces the policy of abstaining freely from investigation into petty crimes remained in force throughout the year; in Berar, on the other hand, the system obtains of investigating almost all offences, however trivial. The percentage of investigated to reported cases was only 64 in the Central Provinces, while in Berar it was 88. The advisability of bringing Berar into line with the Central Provinces in this respect is already under consideration. In cases coming under the head of offences against the person the police appeared to much better advantage in the Central Provinces than in Berar. The action of the Berar police was noticeably poor in 1903, particularly in murder, grievous hurt, and criminal force cases. The percentage of convictions to decided cases of murder was only 30 per cent., the detection work being so feeble that two-thirds of the cases decided in the Courts broke down. The corresponding percentage of convictions in the Central Provinces was 60, this being an improvement on the figure for the previous year. Again, in the case of dacoities, while the prevention and detection of dacoity was, on the whole, very satisfactory in the Central Provinces, only 6 out of 23 cases being untraced, the Berar figures were extremely poor, the police failing in no less than 30 dacoities out of 42 to lay their hands on the offending persons. As regards house-breaking, the general statistical results were somewhat worse than usual both in Berar and in the Central Provinces, the cause of this being undoubtedly the facility afforded for this kind of crime by the evacuation of houses and the construction of temporary shelters necessitated by the plague. Special attention was paid by the police to vagrancy and bad livelihood cases, and as a result of the additional efforts made 141 persons were sent to jail or made to give security this year, as against 90 in 1902. There is reason to suppose that the Central Provinces and Berar are being exploited by professional foreign criminals to a much greater extent than was hitherto supposed. It is satisfactory to notice that the percentage of stolen property recovered rose from 33 to 40.

Punitive Police.

54. No punitive police were imposed in 1903 in any part of the Provinces.

Establishment.

55. The strength of the Police Force showed a deficiency of 357 men. It has been found increasingly difficult to obtain recruits, particularly in the Nagpur country and in Berar, where the high wages paid for outside employment render the pay of the police constable specially inadequate. Matters have gone from bad to worse in this respect in the year now current, and it has been found necessary to introduce a system of local allowances to constables of the lowest grade in these districts in order to render it at all possible to obtain recruits. The death-roll of the year was a heavy one, being nearly double that of 1902. The increased mortality was the result of plague, which raged in several districts.

Discipline.

56. The punishment returns were on the whole lighter than in the previous year, in spite of the fact that the bad-mark system in force in Berar swells the punishment returns from that Division considerably. With wider experience, however, it would appear that some officers could have less recourse to punishment and yet maintain the same standard of efficient discipline. On the whole the police behaved very well throughout the year under review, and it is satisfactory to see that the number of rewards for good work increased both for the Central Provinces and Berar.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE. 4.—CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

[Report on the Judicial Administration (Criminal) of the Central Provinces for the year 1903, and Table IV of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1903-04.]

Crime.

57. Both in the Central Provinces and in Berar the number of cases reported and of those returned as true was considerably less than in the previous year. The decrease was common to nearly all districts, and so far as it is covered by police cases has already been referred to. The decrease in complaint cases is explained as chiefly due to the existence of plague, which more than counterbalanced the tendency to indulge in petty criminal litigation which follows in the wake of agricultural prosperity. Plague, too, was responsible for a marked decrease in the number

of offences brought to trial under Special and Local Laws—the reporting of these offences depending as a rule rather upon the activity of the local authorities, who were this year much pre-occupied, than on the actual number of breaches of the law.

Tribunals.

58. For all practical purposes the strength of the Magistracy remained unchanged throughout the year, though the number of Magistrates in the Central Provinces with summary powers increased to a slight degree. The bulk of the criminal work of original jurisdiction was everywhere performed by Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates In the Central Provinces, however, 34 per cent. of the work was performed by Honorary Magistrates.

The despatch of business.

59. As regards the magisterial work of Courts of Original Jurisdiction, considerable attention has of late been drawn to the importance of curtailing the number of complaints of a merely frivolous or vexatious character, and it is satisfactory to find that Subordinate Magistrates have shown an improvement in this respect. The number of complaints rejected under Section 203 of the Code of Criminal Procedure rose from 2,233 in 1902 to 2,639 in 1903, while the number of cases in which compensation was awarded to the accused under Section 250 was also greater than it had been in the preceding year. Magistrates were, however, still in some cases inclined to be dilatory in the administration of the Criminal Law, as would appear from the fact that the average duration of police cases increased from 10·4 to 11 days, and that of complaint cases from 27·5 to 29·1 days. It cannot also be regarded as satisfactory that in the Central Provinces only 51 per cent. and in Berar 45 per cent. of the persons brought to trial were eventually convicted. If we eliminate cases under the Police and Municipal Acts, in which a conviction is generally secured, the percentage falls to 43 in the Central Provinces, and to 20 in Berar. The Chief Commissioner has called the attention of District Magistrates to the need for closer supervision of the work of the Subordinate Magistracy, more particularly in the matter of prompt and intelligent disposal of the cases which come before them.

Sessions Courts.

60. The total number of cases disposed of in the Sessions Courts of the Central Provinces was 132, with a conviction percentage of 72·1 as against 66·8 in 1902, while the average duration of cases has again fallen from 70 to 68·9 days. The Sessions Court in Berar has an average duration of 43 days, but the percentage of convictions was only 26 as against 42 in 1902. Responsibility for this low figure is chiefly laid upon the shoulders of the Committing Magistrates, who failed to exercise a proper discretion before committing cases to the higher Court.

Appellate and Revisional jurisdiction.

61. District Magistrates disposed of 1,113 appeals in the Central Provinces as against 1,406 in 1902, while in Berar the figures were 292 as against 262 in 1902. Sessions Judges in the Central Provinces disposed of 1,196 appeals and in Berar 194. The Judicial Commissioner of the Central Provinces disposed of the appeals of 217 out of 226 persons whose cases came before him, and undertook 284 revision cases. The Judicial Commissioner of Berar heard 26 appeals and disposed of 231 out of 239 revision cases. Only one appeal was preferred by the Local Government against an acquittal. It was allowed and a sentence of imprisonment was passed.

Punishments.

62. In the Central Provinces 31 death sentences came before the Judicial Commissioner (of which 18 were confirmed), while 42 sentences of transportation for life were passed by Sessions Courts. The corresponding figures for 1902 were 23 and 49. The increase this year in the number of death sentences is, of course, to be explained by the unusual frequency of murder cases, to which reference has been made in the section on police administration. In Magistrates' Courts, out of 16,772 persons convicted, 11,342 were fined only, 1,229 received whipping only, and 3,729 imprisonment only. Sentences of whipping were passed more frequently than in 1902. In Berar the percentage of sentences of fine only has increased, while that of sentences of whipping only has declined.

5.—PRISONS.

PRISONS.

[Report on the Jails of the Central Provinces for the year 1903 and Table V of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1903-04.]

Jail population.

63. It is quite in keeping with the decline in reported crime and in the number of cases brought before the criminal tribunals that the main feature of the current report on jail administration should be the great and continued reduction in

PRISONS.

the number of prisoners. At the beginning of the year there were also some 600 special releases on account of the Coronation; and in spite of the inclusion of the two central and four district jails of Berar, the total number of prisoners of all classes at the end of the year was but slightly in excess of the number in Central Provinces jails alone at the end of the previous year. The number of admissions in 1903 was the lowest in the history of the province. If we exclude the famine year of 1900 it will be found that the decline in the average daily population has been practically continuous since 1897. In that year the average strength both for Berar and the Central Provinces was 9,194. In 1903 it was only 4,073. The number of under-trial prisoners also exhibits a remarkable decrease, as is only natural in a year when crime itself has diminished in amount. Their average detention in jail, however, showed little variation from the preceding year, being longer by one day in the Central Provinces and shorter by one day in Berar as compared with the corresponding figures for 1902. Hindus formed 64 per cent. of the convicts admitted during the year in the Central Provinces and 82 per cent. in Berar. This divergence between the two countries is clearly due to the fact that the population of Berar contains a smaller proportion of aboriginal tribes. It is satisfactory to find that the number of children admitted to jail is steadily diminishing. The proportion of convicts able to read and write was about the same as in 1902, *viz.*, 10 per cent. The number of previous convicts who were admitted for punishment during the year totalled 940 as against 1,135 in 1902.

Jail discipline.

64. Though the number of inmates declined, there was a rise in the number of punishments inflicted from 6,066 to 9,576 (including 456 in Berar). This increase was very unevenly distributed, being confined to 7 out of 25 jails. The rise in the Amraoti. Bilaspur and Hoshangabad jails was a merely nominal one. In Nagpur, Raipur and Wardha it was more marked, while in Jubbulpore it was very great; in fact, the entries in the punishment register of this jail alone were in themselves sufficient to account for the increase of 3,500 in the number of jail punishments over the whole province. Major punishments rose in Jubbulpore from 243 to 1,129, and minor punishments from 984 to 3,699. These figures have, of course, been closely criticised, and the general verdict is that stern measures were justified by the almost organized contumacy of the convicts, severity being necessary to enforce discipline, exact full tasks, and break up the combined attempts which were made to evade authority. It has only been suggested, in view of the unusually large employment of minor punishments in that jail, that perhaps severer treatment in many of these cases would have more effectively and speedily checked the spirit of insubordination. Apart from the jails to which reference has been made, the decline in punishments kept pace with the general decline in the number of inmates. Comparative statistics have elicited the fact that as a general rule, leaving aside the unusual figures of 1903, for every convict punished in Berar two are punished in the Central Provinces. No explanation is as yet forthcoming as to the causes of this divergence. The matter is, however, now receiving attention and no doubt some light will before long be thrown upon it.

Health.

65. There was in 1903 ample accommodation for prisoners in the existing jails, and there was a great improvement in their general health. The death *per mille* was 18 as compared with 24 in 1902, and 27 in 1901. The ratio *per mille* of cases of sickness fell from 32 for convicts and 28 for under-trials in 1902 to 28 and 18 in 1903. A very satisfactory feature of the year's administration is the success which attended the efforts to keep the jails free from plague infection. Considering that the disease was epidemic in 12 head-quarter towns, it is highly creditable that only three cases of plague occurred within the prisons, and of these but one terminated fatally. The physical condition of the prisoners discharged from jail showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous year, the percentage of those who gained in weight in 1903 being higher than in 1902.

Jail industries.

66. The profits earned by manufactures are shown to have risen during 1903 to Rs. 88,695 for all jails, as compared with Rs. 77,417 in 1902. This increase is the more remarkable, considering the diminished amount of labour that was available. The bulk of the profits was, as usual, earned in the central jails, where

the larger industries are carried on. In Jubbulpore it is, however, recognized that the contracts with the Supply and Transport Department will never prove as remunerative as the tent industry which they supplanted. The latter industry was almost a monopoly of the Jubbulpore Jail, while the profits on the present undertaking have been reduced to a minimum by the keenness of outside competition.

67. The total expenditure under all heads rose during the year in the jails at Seoni, Balaghat and Bhandara. With these exceptions there was everywhere else a reduction of actual expenditure, proving that still further economy has been shown in the management of nearly all the jails. It is also satisfactory to find that the savings to Government effected by the employment of prison labour (not charged for) were estimated at nearly Rs. 30,000. **Cost of prisoners.**

6.—CIVIL JUSTICE. CIVIL JUSTICE.

[Report on the Judicial Administration (Civil) of the Central Provinces for the year 1903, and Table III of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for the year 1903-04.]

68. On the side of civil as of criminal justice we have once more to record a considerable fall in the number of original cases instituted both in the Central Provinces and in Berar. The decrease was most marked in the case of petty suits, which are naturally the first to disappear when the people are pre-occupied with plague. In Raipur and Chanda too the liberal distribution of agricultural loans from Government, which followed the crop failure of 1902-03, must have saved many of the poorer cultivators from the money-lender's hands. In the Central Provinces there was also a considerable fall in the number of suits under the rent law, and this may well be attributed partly to the fact that the return of agricultural prosperity enabled landlords to obtain their rents without recourse to Court, and partly to a better understanding by the agricultural classes of the provisions of the Tenancy Act of 1898, which resulted in the reference to the Revenue Courts of many matters of dispute which formerly were the subject of civil litigation. **Character of litigation.**

69. There has, with a few exceptions, been a substantial reduction in the number of pending original suits in the districts of the Central Provinces. In Berar, however, the fall was by no means proportionate to the decrease in the number of institutions, and proposals were called for as to the manner in which a suitable reduction could be best effected. **Pending suits.**

70. The number of applications for execution proceedings fell very markedly in the Central Provinces and Berar. Of the total disposals in the Central Provinces about 57 per cent. were wholly infructuous, while about 37 per cent. resulted in satisfaction either partial or entire. The figures for Berar were somewhat lower, while the number of execution cases pending at the end of the year was considerably greater. During the year under review, owing to reflections upon the inefficiency of the process-serving staff, an attempt was made to secure more adequate supervision by the appointment in four districts of Inspectors of process-servers. Unfortunately the cost of the scheme was entirely disproportionate to the results achieved, and it has had to be abandoned. However, since the subsequent passing of the new Central Provinces Courts Act and the fixing of undivided responsibility upon the District Judge, there is reason to hope that more systematic control of the process-servers will be possible. **Execution of decrees.**

71. In the Central Provinces the number of regular second appeals instituted in the Court of the Judicial Commissioner was normal. The number of disposals fell from 500 (in 1902) to 280, while the average duration rose from 47·5 days to 107·6. These figures were no doubt due to the changes in the tenure of the appointment; at the same time they were a clear indication of the necessity that existed of relieving the Judicial Commissioner of some of his work by the appointment, sanctioned since the close of the year under review, of an Additional Judicial Commissioner. In Berar the institutions in the Judicial Commissioner's Court were 677 as against 606 last year, while the disposals numbered 460 as against 421. A rise in the average duration of these appeals is attributed to the difficulty of serving respondents on account of plague. The remainder of the **Appellate litigation.**

CIVIL JUSTICE.

appellate work was done in Berar by the Civil and Sessions Judge and in the Central Provinces by the Divisional Judges and Civil Judges, and the manner in which it was performed calls for no special comment.

Miscellaneous.

72. The year 1903 witnessed the introduction of the new scheme providing for the appointment of a large additional number of Munsifs, and the gradual relief of Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars from civil work unconnected with the rent law. The large decrease therefore in the percentage of suits decided by Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars and the corresponding increase in the work disposed of by Munsifs are satisfactory indications of the progress made in the matter of setting Revenue Officers free for the performance of their proper executive duties. During the year too the supervision of the subordinate Civil Courts was transferred from the hands of the Deputy Commissioner to those of the Civil Judge, preparatory to the introduction of the system which the Central Provinces Courts Act was soon to bring into force. Amid so many changes therefore it is remarkable that the administration of civil justice proceeded so smoothly, and the fact that it did so is a good omen for the future success of this branch of the Judicial Administration.

REGISTRATION.

7.—REGISTRATION.

[Note on the working of the Registration Department in the Central Provinces for the year 1903, and Table IX of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1903-04.]

Registrations affecting immoveable property.

73. In the Central Provinces there was during the year a marked fall both in the number and in the aggregate value of compulsory registrations, this being particularly noticeable in the case of leases for a term of years. There was also a very decided fall in the number of mortgages—perpetual leases which had shown a steady increase for the previous four years now declining both in number and in the rental value of the property so leased. In Berar, on the other hand, the number of compulsory registrations nearly doubled that in the Central Provinces, and showed a rise of 4 per cent. on the corresponding figure for 1902. The number of instruments of sale or exchange is also much in excess of the Central Provinces figure, but the most striking contrast is to be found in the number of mortgage-deeds registered. These sprang up in Berar from 8,914 to 10,308, while the value of the property mortgaged rose from 39 to 48 lakhs. Neither for this increase in itself nor for its marked opposition to the corresponding decline in the Central Provinces figures is there any explanation forthcoming. At most it is suggested that, since in Wardha, which is more nearly akin to the Berar than to the Central Provinces districts, there has been a definite rise in the number and value of mortgages, as against a fall in every other district of the Central Provinces, it is probable that such mortgages are in some way influenced by the trade in cotton. The matter, however, is an obscure one, and is being made the subject of still further inquiry.

Optional registrations decreased considerably in 1903 both in Berar and in the Central Provinces. It is supposed, however, that here too, but for the disturbing influence of plague, there would have been a rise similar to that recorded for immoveable property. As matters were, people became nervous of leaving their villages unless compelled to, with the result that this branch of registration was much less resorted to than usual.

Registrations affecting moveable property.

74. Compulsory registrations of moveable property were, as usual, quite insignificant. Optional registrations of this class, however, show a decrease, which can also be traced to the prevalence of plague.

Miscellaneous.

75. Refusals to register in 1903 numbered 521 as against 453 in 1902. In many districts of the Central Provinces refusals were rendered necessary by the presentation of documents voidable under the Tenancy Act, such as surrenders of tenants' holdings for a consideration and transfers of proprietary rights without sanction to the transfer of occupancy rights in the home-farm. Orders under the Agriculturists' Loans Act continued to fall in the Central Provinces. A good season had no doubt much to do with keeping the numbers low, but it is equally certain that this result is also secured in part by the system under which joint security for these loans is taken in place of mortgages of

immoveable property. The gross receipts on account of fees fell in the Central Provinces from Rs. 92,000 to Rs. 84,000, while in Berar they rose from Rs. 90,000 to Rs. 95,000. The disproportion in gross receipts as compared with the registrations effected (they numbered 20,000 in the Central Provinces and 33,000 in Berar) is due to the difference of the fee-schedules. It is noticeable that although registrations in Berar were 60 per cent. more than those of the Central Provinces, the expenses of the two departments were practically identical. The working of the department in the Central Provinces was on the whole satisfactory. Munsifs have, since the close of the year, been relieved of all registration work, and similar proposals have been submitted for the relief of Tahsildars. The Berar department has hardly reached as yet the same level of efficiency, and steps have since been taken to place its working upon a sounder basis.

8.—MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION.

[Resolution on the working of the Municipal Committees of the Central Provinces for the year 1903-04, and Table XVII—1, 2-L, 3-L, and 4 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for the year 1903-04.]

Number and constitution of municipalities.

76. No alteration appears in the number of municipalities in Berar and the Central Provinces. The former area contains 12 municipal towns and the latter 46. For the Central Provinces an important step was taken during the year by the introduction of the new Municipal Act (XVI) of 1903. After the passing of that Act the question in particular of reducing some of the minor municipalities to the status of notified areas was raised, but nothing was done before the close of the year, as it was thought advisable to move slowly in the matter. In the Municipal Law of Berar there is no provision for a similarly reduced constitution, but, if Chapter XI of the new Central Provinces Act works well, similar provisions may, it is thought, be introduced into that Division.

Income.

77. Excluding amounts under extraordinary and debt heads, the total income of all municipalities of the Central Provinces and Berar was Rs. 19,79,000 as against Rs. 17,79,000 in the previous year, a result which, considering the existence of plague in many of the largest towns, was most satisfactory. But it is curious to find that the increase was practically confined to the Central Provinces (there was an advance of only Rs. 3,000 in Berar), and almost entirely, moreover, to five municipalities in the Central Provinces, where the octroi duty—a duty never levied in Berar—is shown to have increased by over a lakh of rupees. This improvement in octroi receipts is due to various causes—to better supervision in Harda, to the increase of rail-borne trade in Seoni, to the influx of villagers into Jubbulpore because plague, which was prevalent in the neighbourhood, left the city unscathed, and to the importation of food-grain in Sambalpur. The other sources of income showed comparatively slight fluctuations. Taxes on houses and land and on animals and vehicles produced almost exactly the same income as in the previous year. Conservancy receipts increased by Rs. 11,000 in the Central Provinces, but fell by Rs. 3,000 in Berar. Receipts from pounds showed a slight advance, while revenue from municipal property was slightly above and in Berar slightly below what was collected in the previous year. The opening balance of the year amounted to Rs. 5,30,000, of which Rs. 2,90,000 belonged to the 12 municipalities of Berar and only Rs. 2,40,000 to the 46 in the Central Provinces. The balances indeed of the Berar municipalities were almost exactly the same as their total income for the year, and the opinion has been expressed, in reference to this point, that the practice of maintaining these enormous balances is objectionable, and contrary to the principle that the revenue should be spent for the benefit of those from whom it is levied.

Expenditure.

78. The total expenditure in the Central Provinces was Rs. 17,64,000 against Rs. 17,01,000 in 1902, and Rs. 2,82,000 in the Berar Division as against Rs. 2,57,000. Excluding extraordinary and debt heads, the real expenditure works out to Rs. 18,69,000 as against Rs. 17,66,000; while, if we further exclude the single item of octroi refunds, which increased by Rs. 69,000 in the Central Provinces, it will be found that the net expenditure of the Central

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION.

Provinces municipalities was Rs. 12,79,000, or only Rs. 6,000 more than in the previous year. In neither province did the expenditure equal the income, and the closing balances rose accordingly from Rs. 5,30,000 to Rs. 6,96,000. Only in Nagpur and Amraoti was there any considerable expenditure under capital outlay on water-supply. In Nagpur the main and pumping arrangements were improved, and in Amraoti Rs. 18,000 were spent in fitting up a well with machine pumps. The general municipal expenditure on roads was the same as in the previous year; and the expenses consequent on plague, which rose to Rs. 75,000 as against Rs. 61,000, and the expenditure on education were only a little heavier than they were in 1902-03.

Financial position.

79. There are seven municipalities in the Central Provinces and two in Berar which have taken Government loans. The finances of all of these are on a fairly sound basis, with the exception of Bhandara, which still remains in an unsatisfactory condition. The position of Jubbulpore, too, has been a matter of some anxiety, but there seems to be good reason to hope that the fortunes of the Municipal Committee will be restored, the past year's working having resulted in a satisfactory excess of receipts over expenditure by about Rs. 17,000. In the case of municipalities which have not taken loans, the general financial condition is good, the closing balances being ample and even, in some cases, excessive. Only the Balaghat Committee, which derives its income from a haisiyat-tax or tax according to the rate-payers' means, was unable to make both ends meet without a grant from the Provincial revenues. Even here, however, improvement may be expected from the expansion of trade which should follow the advent of the railways.

General.

80. On the whole, the Municipal Committees have during the year done much good work, and the relations between them and Government officials have been excellent. The privilege of a vote is as yet valued only in a few places, and perhaps it was the less regarded because the presence of plague made it at times impossible even to hold elections. The individual Committee members, however, generally appeared to good advantage in the trying times of plague, and the thanks of the Administration were conveyed to several non-official gentlemen who were specially mentioned for the excellent services done by them in their respective spheres.

9.—DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS.

DISTRICT COUNCILS, &c.

[Report on the working of the District Councils and Local Boards for 1903-04, and Table XVIII of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for the year 1903-04.]

Number and constitution.

81. There was no change in the number of District Councils or Local Boards during the year, nor in the area administered by them, the figures for the whole province showing that there were 23 District Councils and 76 Local Boards, of which 6 District Councils and 21 Local Boards were in Berar. The only areas excluded from the operation of local self-government were the Mandla District, the Zamindaris and the Sironcha Tahsil of the Chanda District, and the Melghat Taluq of the Ellichpur District. There is no great divergence between the constitution of the Local Bodies of the Central Provinces and that of the Local Bodies of Berar. The meetings of the Boards were in almost every case regularly held and sufficiently attended. It is only doubtful whether enough power and responsibility has as yet been delegated to Local Boards to afford them subjects for discussion at the six meetings which are the minimum now fixed for the Central Provinces. In Berar, the Boards possess more financial control and executive authority.

Income.

82. Excluding advances and deposit heads, the total income of all Boards in the Central Provinces was Rs. 9,80,000 against Rs. 10,37,000 in 1902-03. But this decrease was more nominal than real owing to the fact that special grants from Provincial revenues had been made in the latter year on account of school buildings, resulting in a decrease of Rs. 70,000 next year under the head of Provincial contributions. The receipts from Local Rates and from Pounds showed, on the other hand, a satisfactory increase. In Berar, the Local revenue was proportionately far greater than in the Central Provinces, as the ordinary resources were supplemented there by the Surplus Jaglia Cess and the Town Fund, while there is also a good income derived from school fees in Primary Schools, which in

the Central Provinces are spent locally by the School Committees and do not appear as a receipt of the District Council. The total income, excluding debt and deposit heads, amounted to Rs. 6,48,000 as against Rs. 7,20,000 in 1902-03. But here again the decrease is a merely nominal one, being in this case the result of a mere adjustment of receipts in order to conform with a correct interpretation of the Account Rules. The Town Fund tax has, since the close of 1903, been abolished in the non-municipal areas of Berar, and the Imperial income tax has been substituted for it. Excluding provincial contributions and debt and deposit heads, the net income of the District Councils in the Central Provinces was Rs. 6,88,000 as compared with Rs. 6,48,000 in Berar. This gives an average incidence of taxation upon the population of 2·62 annas per head in Berar and ·75 annas in the Central Provinces. This is in itself sufficient to explain why the Berar Local Bodies can take so much larger a share in the local self-government than is possible in the Central Provinces, where, moreover, work has to be curtailed in almost every branch for want of adequate funds.

Expenditure.

83. The expenditure exceeded the income by Rs. 21,000 in the Central Provinces, and fell short of it in Berar by Rs. 86,000, leaving a balance in the Central Provinces of Rs. 2,63,000 and in Berar of Rs. 9,01,000. The enormous balances in the Berar districts were the subject of special remark, and objection was raised to the practice of amassing such sums of money on the ground that they would be better employed for the benefit of the rate-payer as in the case also of municipal balances. These surpluses were in some cases equal to two years' income, and as they had accumulated, partly at any rate, through a want of energy in pushing on works of general utility, many of which were waiting to be carried through, it was directed that special measures should in future be taken to utilize the money for some public purpose instead of hoarding it. All the Boards, with the exception of the Raipur Council, whose finances were affected by the bad season of 1902-03, closed the year apparently in a solvent condition. The expenditure of the Boards on education was in the Central Provinces nearly the same as in the previous year, that on hospitals and dispensaries showed a slight increase, while there is a marked decline in the outlay on civil works. The transfer of all roads, except village roads, to the control of the Public Works Department accounts for this decline. In Berar, while the sums expended on education were practically identical with the outlay of 1902-03, there was a considerable increase under the head of civil works. This is in itself satisfactory, but as has been said above, the field is ready for even wider operations than those which have been conducted hitherto.

General.

84. The attitude of the Council members towards their work has been on the whole encouraging. They have been hampered by the natural apathy of the people, by the want of funds in many cases, and almost everywhere by the opposition of the lower class of Government servants who dislike being deprived of their authority. Still it is clear that though their interest at present is more with matters of education than with sanitation or the public works, the members are beginning to respond to the call that is made upon them, and it has been found possible to convey the thanks of the Administration to several gentlemen whose excellent services have been brought to the notice of the Chief Commissioner.

10.—MILITARY (VOLUNTEERING).

MILITARY.

85. There are now two Volunteer Corps in the Central Provinces and one in Berar. They are named, respectively, the Nagpur Rifles, the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Rifles, and the Berar Rifles.

The Nagpur Volunteer Rifles.

86. The first named of these three Corps showed, on the 31st of March 1904, an enrolled strength for all ranks of 584, of whom 18 were Commissioned Officers. Of this total figure 554 were Extra-efficient, 19 Efficient and 10 Non-efficient. The number of marksmen was 211. The accounts closed in 1903 with a balance in hand of Rs. 6,727, which had been gradually accumulated. In October of last year the Inspector-General of Volunteers gave instructions that the surplus funds of the Corps could not with advantage be kept in reserve, but would be well spent on any scheme which would tend to raise the standard of efficiency. Accordingly, among other minor items of expense, a large sum was utilized

in carrying through a camp-of-exercise in February 1904, the first which had been held by the Corps for the last nine years. The balance remaining now in hand is only Rs. 765, but the financial position of the Corps is satisfactory.

The Bengal-Nagpur Railway Volunteer Rifles.

87. During the year the sanction of the Government was obtained for the division of the Railway Volunteer Corps into two Battalions, the first Battalion having its head-quarters at Kharagpur, and the second at Nagpur. The enrolled strength of all ranks was 1,171 (including 39 officers), of whom but 19 were Non-efficient. Among the 1,142 members who were Extra-efficient, 722 were marksmen. The finances of the Corps are sound.

Berar Volunteer Rifles.

88. The enrolled strength of the Berar Corps was 133 at the end of the year 1903-04, of whom 8 were Commissioned Officers. The percentage of Efficients was 61. There were 63 Extra-efficients, of whom 37 were marksmen. A camp-of-exercise, field-firing and tactical parades were held during the year under review. The Berar Volunteer Rifle Corps will now be amalgamated with the Nagpur Volunteer Rifles, and this, it is hoped, will result in increased efficiency and in economy of administration.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

1.—AGRICULTURE.

AGRICULTURE.

[Reports on the working of the Department of Agriculture and of the Civil Veterinary Department for the year ending the 31st March 1904; also Volume of Agricultural Statistics of India, Part I, for 1903-04].

General.

89. During the year the control of the Department of Agriculture in Berar was transferred to the Director of Agriculture in the Central Provinces. In spite of this additional burden on the shoulders of a single officer, together with an immense increase in the work proper to the Central Provinces, it is satisfactory to record that there is evidence of steady progress and development in the Department. Experiments of various kinds were carried through, and work in connection with the newly instituted District Agricultural and Industrial Associations and the advertisement of improved methods and implements of agriculture was pushed on in many districts of the province. It is clear that the scope of the Department is being rapidly widened, and the closer attention which is being paid to practical instruction in agricultural matters may be expected to confer great benefit on the community at large.

Agricultural education.

90. Education in agricultural and allied subjects was continued during the year at the Nagpur school, but the results in one or two respects were not quite so satisfactory as they might have been. The work in the English class in particular was defective. Plague necessitated the closing of the school for $2\frac{1}{2}$ months, and though much of this time was made up later, the break in the course of study must have been very prejudicial. The teaching too was not all that could be desired, judging from the poor results which the year produced. Steps are being taken to remedy the latter defect. It is not very easy to estimate the results of the instruction given in the class for young malguzars. The course which they undergo is an experiment being tried now for but the second time, and only when the homes of some of these pupils have been visited will it be possible to ascertain what they have to show for the time and money expended. The Normal School classes for village schoolmasters showed more tangible results. Of the 50 schoolmasters who attended the first session, 45 passed the examination. In the second session, out of 61 candidates at the examination, 54 obtained certificates. A few of the masters who have been through this class have already made commendably practical use of the lessons they have learned. In more than one instance they have persuaded the malguzar or some other member of the school management to give them a plot of land large enough to exhibit the effect of new methods of cultivation. If efficient arrangements can be made for these demonstrations, they may prove a valuable adjunct to the experimental farms. The *Agricultural Gazette* continued to be much appreciated and widely read. Some 2,680 copies were in circulation and the number of subscribers rose from 1,823 to 2,035. Most of the subject-matter is now supplied by officials of the Agricultural Department, and it seems to be a really useful medium for the dissemination of agricultural information.

Agricultural experiments.

91. In addition to the Nagpur and Telinkheri Farms new experimental stations at Powarkhera near Hoshangabad and at Labandih near Raipur were purchased during the year under review. No real work, however, was started on the new farms as they could not be got into proper order before the sowing season. The Telinkheri Farm, worked as a supplement to the Nagpur Farm,

was chiefly used for producing seed of approved new and improved varieties. Experimental work therefore was carried on almost entirely at the Nagpur Farm. Here in addition to the investigation of plant disease and the trial of new implements, the main operations consisted in testing the effect of different manures on wheat, cultivating new varieties of rice obtained from the Punjab and from Allahabad, and above all in attempting to obtain new varieties of cotton and wheat by cross-fertilization. The results were decidedly encouraging in the last-mentioned field of experiment, but various matters in connection with it have yet to be thoroughly investigated.

Agricultural demonstrations and enquiries.

92. The demonstration of juar and cotton cultivation continued in Chhattisgarh on the same lines as before, the object being to provide a crop which will succeed in a year in which rice would give a low outturn, and which will also afford good fodder for cattle. In 1902-03, when the rainfall was so defective that the rice crop failed, juar and cotton gave excellent results. But in the subsequent season when rain was abundant their failure was as marked as their previous success had been. This will naturally discredit these crops with many of the cultivators who tried them, and it illustrates the danger of pressing on experiments without thorough expert guidance. It appears that much of the cotton and juar seed was sown in flat or low-lying black soil, contrary to the instructions given at the time of distributing the seed, and its failure was almost assured from the beginning. The experiment will be continued and special attention will be paid to teaching the villagers the quality and position of the soil best suited to the growth of cotton and juar. Besides this work in Chhattisgarh, demonstrations in improved methods of cultivating the autumn or kharif crops were successfully carried through in Hoshangabad. In this district also as well as in Raipur and Bilaspur the preparation of silage was exhibited, and again in seven districts the use and advantages of a fodder-cutting and of a winnowing machine were advertised with very good results. Indeed, the sale of implements of all kinds shows signs of becoming an important part of the work of the Agricultural Department, the introduction of the best types of implements into localities where they are unknown being an obviously useful enterprise in which the Department can engage. Experiments in pickling juar-seed as a preventive against rust, in methods for the destruction of grasshoppers, and the usual crop experiments for determination of standard outturns, all formed part of the programme of work undertaken during the year. Results were, so far as they went, inconclusive, but it is obvious that all such experiments must be watched for a considerable period before they can be used as the basis of any safe deductions.

District Associations.

93. Agricultural and Industrial Associations formed for the development of the resources of each district are now everywhere established. Considering that these Associations have been but very recently formed, a good deal of work has been done by them, and it is obvious that they are of great value in keeping the Agricultural Department in touch with the best opinions of non-official gentlemen on matters of agricultural importance.

The Veterinary Department.

94. During the year three new dispensaries were opened by the Veterinary Department in the Central Provinces and five in Berar, making totals for these two areas, respectively, of 12 and 17. The number of cases treated at dispensaries increased both in the Central Provinces and in Berar. It is satisfactory to notice that a good deal more touring was done than in the previous year and the number of cases treated in villages in the Central Provinces has almost doubled. The pension scheme, proposed with the object of making the subordinate service more attractive, has now been sanctioned, but it is still very difficult to get a good class of men as Veterinary Assistants. Proposals are now under consideration for strengthening the superior inspecting staff.

Live-stock.

95. The Telinkheri Cattle-breeding Farm just outside Nagpur continues to flourish. The stock has increased from 47 to 75 head, and the buildings have been added to. As the farm has been in existence for less than two years, its primary object—that of supplying breeding bulls to various parts of the country—has as yet not been fulfilled. During the year a second cattle-breeding farm was started at Powarkhera in Hoshangabad.

Rinderpest, quarter-evil and foot and mouth disease are all widely prevalent in these provinces. Of the rinderpest cases treated 72 per cent. were successful and it is satisfactory to learn that the people are beginning to show more sympathy with the work of the Veterinary Assistants. The horse and mule breeding establishments at Saugor, Damoh and Narsinghpur were abolished during the year, the live-stock have been sold off, and the experiment finally discontinued.

2.—WEATHER AND CROPS.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

[Season and Crop Report of the Central Provinces for the year 1903-04. See also Volume of Agricultural Statistics of India, Part I, for 1903-04.]

Rainfall.

96. The average rainfall in the Central Provinces for the last 36 years is 49·43 inches, while the records of the last 10 years in Berar give an average of 29·46. In 1903-04, 50·65 inches fell over the former area and 36·54 inches over the latter. The rainfall of June was in considerable defect throughout the greater portion of the Province, but with the third week in July excellent rain set in, especially in the southern districts; and during three weeks of August and the first week of September heavy and continuous rain fell over the whole of the provinces. The rainfall then moderated, but in most districts the monsoon was prolonged well into October. In the middle of January a little rain was received in the north and south, but the total was somewhat less than the usual fall at this time of year. A few scattered showers fell in the end of February and in the beginning of March, and in May there were the usual thunderstorms in most districts. Hail-storms in the beginning of 1904 caused considerable damage over certain small areas and necessitated remissions of revenue in several districts.

Character of the season.

97. The heavy and continuous rain in July and August was too much for the juar, cotton and til crops of the Nagpur country and Berar. Juar and til indeed suffered so severely that a considerable area under these crops was ploughed up and seeded to spring crops in October. Six districts, however, in which the rainfall was lighter, or a large proportion of the area under these crops was on poor soil, showed an outturn equal to or in excess of the average. Tur also, being harvested later than the juar and cotton with which it is generally sown, was able to recover to some extent from the effects of the heavy rain. Rice prospered exceedingly in Chhattisgarh and the Wainganga Valley, a full crop of transplanted rice and a normal broadcast crop being reaped almost everywhere. The minor millets fared nearly as well as rice. The continuous rainfall of August and September interfered with the proper preparations for the rabi crop, and spring sowings were consequently delayed. They were, however, successfully made in moist seed-beds and germination was good, though the almost complete absence of rain in January prevented the realisation of the full crops that had been looked for, the net result to the province of this unsuccessful termination of the rabi season being the conversion of a very promising spring crop into one slightly below the normal. The outturn of gram was good and the wheat crop fair.

Yield of the autumn (kharif) crops.

98. *Rice.*—All the rice districts except Raipur and Bilaspur showed a recovery from last year's figures in the area sown with this staple, but in these two important districts the decline—attributed to the influence of astrologers' prophecies of a short monsoon—was sufficient to cause a fall for the whole province of 2·2 per cent. below the area under rice in the preceding year. The ground lost in the famine is far from being yet made up, the area being short of the normal by 11·0 per cent. Sambalpur, which only received a slight check from the famine of 1900, is the only district where the rice area shows no deterioration from the prosperous days of the early nineties. In spite of this contraction in area the year's export statistics for rice showed, owing to the excellent outturn, a remarkable recovery though they are still far below the figures of former times.

Juar.—The area under juar in the Central Provinces declined by over half a million acres, being 21 per cent. less than the area of the previous year, which was the largest on record. The decrease is mainly due to the demand for cotton

WEATHER AND CROPS.

and to the substitution of spring crops for juar consequent on the recovery of cultivators from the effects of famine. Excessive rain in July interfered seriously with the healthy growth of the young plants and some land was re-ploughed for wheat and other cold-weather crops. The decrease in area is common to all divisions, and in Berar, where no less than 2,825,000 acres were under juar, the decrease amounted to 11·0 per cent. The failure this year of the efforts made to extend the cultivation of juar in Chhattisgarh has already been referred to.

Til.—There was a slight increase in the area sown with the early variety of til. But the extent to which the later variety was sown fell by 38 per cent., due to the fact that many fields had to be ploughed up and re-sown with other crops owing to the heavy rain. As a consequence of this the exports showed a considerable decline. Til is little grown in Berar.

Cotton.—The remarkable and unabated expansion of cotton cultivation of late years is perhaps the most important feature of the recent agricultural history of the Central Provinces and Berar. In 1902-03 the acreage devoted to this crop exceeded all previous records and the year under review witnessed a still wider extension. In the Central Provinces the area has increased by over 13 per cent. and in Berar by over 3 per cent. Unfortunately these figures represent the hopes with which the season began rather than its realisations. Some mitigation of the comparative failure of the cotton crop was to be found in the high prices which this commodity commanded. During the autumn of 1903 prices were particularly high, and it was unfortunate that a season less favourable than usual prevented the cultivators from taking full advantage of them. In fact, in spite of the increased acreage, the quantity of cotton exported was less than in the previous year. No doubt the local mills are yearly taking a larger supply of cotton for their own consumption, but this is insignificant when compared with the foreign demand, and the conclusion is obvious that the decline of the export trade was the direct result of a comparatively unfavour able season.

Yield of the spring (Rabi) crops.

99. The area given up to the rabi or spring crops in the Central Provinces showed an advance of 1,380,000 acres or of 26 per cent. upon the figure recorded for the previous year. The increase was common to all Divisions and was most noticeable in the acreage under wheat and linseed. In Berar the area under spring crops showed an increase of nearly 70 per cent., but much of this was consequent upon the failure of juar. But while acknowledging that much of this expansion was the result of the injury to the autumn crops, it is only fair to record it also as a tribute to the resourcefulness of the cultivating classes. It undoubtedly reflects to some extent the recovery of the country from the depression caused by the period of famine, and is all the more on that account a ground for the deepest satisfaction. In particular, the re-establishment of large areas under wheat and linseed is very promising, as these are valuable crops which always find a ready market. In general it is worthy of note that the only important rabi staple which shows a decline is the late variety of til, the season proving a favourable one to every other winter crop.

Wheat.—The area placed under wheat and mixed wheat and gram in the Central Provinces exceeded that of the previous year by 26 per cent. and totalled 3,090,000 acres. Every Division made substantial progress. Rust did no damage during the year and a bumper crop was prevented only by the failure of the rain in January. In Berar the wheat area was more than doubled. Great though the recovery has been in this and previous years, the area is still far short of the 4 million acres under wheat in these Provinces before the famine era. Neither has the export trade reached or even approached its former proportions. The average export of wheat for the five years prior to 1893 was 7 million maunds. From October 1903 to August 1904 the total amounted to only 3,260,780 maunds.

Pulses.—The area sown with gram alone in the Central Provinces has risen by 5 per cent. But this pulse is mostly grown as an admixture with wheat, and the area under this mixture shows an increase of 9 per cent. The increase under gram in Berar is 46 per cent. The areas under minor pulses have largely expanded in the Central Provinces. They are of little importance in Berar.

Linseed.—The area under linseed was in excess of that of the previous year by about 67 per cent. The area under mixed linseed and gram also increased,

but the bulk of the expansion concerned only the pure crop. The corresponding area in Berar increased by 53 per cent. This abnormal addition to the area under linseed was due in a large measure to its employment as a second crop in places where the cotton and juar had been spoiled by the excessive rain.

The yield of the year.

100. In spite of a fair rabi and a good rice crop the produce of the provinces as a whole was still something short of the normal outturn on the area under crop before the famines. A rough estimate of the food-stock of the Central Provinces gives an outturn of grain amounting to some 300 million maunds, and it is calculated that the actual grain-stock at the end of March of this year was something like two-thirds of the annual requirements of the people. Whatever may be the value of these figures it is certain that the year leaves the people far more confident and prosperous than it found them. The traces of distress in past years are being rapidly removed, while the experience of evil days will itself no doubt have an excellent effect in teaching the people to guard against a misfortune that may at any time recur.

Berar.

101. References to Berar have been somewhat scanty, and many of the statements as to its crop areas and outturns have been given with some hesitation. At present the Berar Land Record staff is in its infancy and the same means are not there available as in the Central Provinces for testing by experiment the outturn of the harvests, nor has it as yet been possible to devote much attention to the compilation of standard outturns. Lately, however, the staff has been fully organized, and it will soon be possible to exercise a greater check upon the estimates which hitherto have had to be compiled on the basis of somewhat insufficient data.

3.—HORTICULTURE.

HORTICULTURE.

[Report on the management of the District Gardens in the Central Provinces for the year 1903-04].

Provincial Gardens.

102. The Provincial gardens include the Maharaj Bagh, Telinkheri and Government-house Gardens at Nagpur, and the Public and Residency Gardens at Pachmarhi. The rainfall of the year was exceptionally heavy and the season was generally favourable to horticulture. The Nagpur Gardens achieved satisfactory results; the fruit crops, except in the case of oranges, were remarkably successful, while the display of flowers in the cold weather was exceptionally good. The financial results in Nagpur were, however, disappointing. Irregularities were discovered in October 1903 in the accounts of the Maharaj Bagh, and a detailed enquiry resulted in the dismissal of the Superintendent and his clerk. The receipts too at Telinkheri were poor, the management being unbusinesslike. Much improvement may be expected in this respect during the current year from the appointment of a new and qualified Superintendent. In the Pachmarhi gardens better results were secured. The season was a favourable one for gardening, with little frost and no damage from insects. Fruit, flowers and vegetables were all successfully raised, and considerable sums of money were spent upon improvements. Receipts rose from Rs. 925 to Rs. 1,500, the improvement being traceable as much to the successful management of the Overseer as to the excellence of the season.

District Gardens.

103. Gardens were maintained under Government management at 14 district head-quarters. The season was nearly everywhere propitious though some gardens suffered from excessive rain. The financial management of the gardens was, generally speaking, a good deal more successful than usual. The cost of establishment, which was just covered by the total receipts, diminished to a small extent, while the income derived from sales of produce rose considerably. None, indeed, of the gardens could show a net balance in favour of receipts, but Balaghat, Seoni, Saugor and Chhindwara all showed very fair percentages. Fair progress was also made in increasing the stock of fruit trees and other plants for distribution. The number of plants thus delivered to cultivators and others was more than double what it was in the previous year. At the same time results as a whole are still insignificant and more substantial improvement must still be looked for. Experimental work with a view to produce acclimatised seeds of flowers and vegetables not usually grown in the neighbourhood was

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undertaken in a few districts. The previous year's experiments with Jaunpur maize and American varieties of the sweet potato were also continued. Juar was also grown in Raipur, and in spite of an unfavourable season, it gave an excellent outturn.

Court of Wards Gardens.

104. Court of Wards gardens were maintained on the estates in Hoshangabad and Chanda as well as in Wardha, where only a year had elapsed since the opening of the gardens. The results were generally of little importance, the Ahiri garden in Chanda being the only one from which a fair financial return could be obtained. In other districts the poverty of most estates precludes the prospect of any experiment in this direction.

FORESTS.

4.—FORESTS.

[Report on the Forest Administration of the Northern, Southern and Berar Circles, Central Provinces, for the year ending 30th June 1904.]

Forest areas.

105. The total area of the State-forests of the Central Provinces and Berar decreased during the year under review by 172 square miles, as the direct result of the disforestment for cultivation of 110,000 acres of B-I class forest in the Nimar District. In Berar and the Southern Circle the variation in the total area was insignificant, the whole forest area for the province amounting accordingly to 22,675 square miles as against 22,847 in June 1903. The area of A class reserved forest in the Northern Circle was materially affected by the transfer of 683,755 acres in the Mandla District from B-II to A class forest; but apart from this, if we except the disforestment of 6,191 acres in Hoshangabad, there were no changes of any importance made in the A class area.

Demarcation and Forest Surveys.

106. A good deal of attention was paid during the year to boundaries. These were repaired along 7,215 miles in the Northern Circle and along 11,190 miles in the Southern, and 1,068 miles in the Berar Circle. In completing the work a total expenditure of Rs. 8,883 was incurred in the Central Provinces and of Rs. 867 in Berar. Survey work in the Northern Circle is now complete and in the Southern Circle nearly so; but much remains to be done in Berar, and orders have been received since the close of the year for the employment of the services of the Forest Survey of India to deal with the larger blocks of this area. The total expenditure of the Province on surveying work during the year amounted to Rs. 6,399.

Working Plans.

107. Nothing was done in Berar during the year as regards the preparation of regular working-plans, as a reconstruction of the Berar Districts is anticipated, which will necessarily lead to corresponding reconstruction of Forest Divisions. But although no new working-plans could be submitted for sanction, the collection of information with a view to their ready preparation was continued. The ordinary working of the plans already sanctioned advanced; but as the effects of the long period of drought, culminating in 1899-1900, have not yet ceased, deviations from the sanctioned working scheme had to be made in a few instances. In the Central Provinces no new working-plans were sanctioned during the year, but considerable progress was made in the compilation of a plan for 141 square miles of sâl forest in the Raigarh Range of the Balaghat Division. In the case of several areas already under exploitation it was found impossible to work completely up to the prescriptions of the working-plans. Important deviations, arising generally from a lack of demand, occurred in the Balaghat, South Chanda and Nagpur-Wardha Divisions in the Southern Circle, while in the Northern Circle the prescriptions were held in abeyance under the orders of the Local Government over a total area of 384 square miles.

Communications.

108. In the three Circles of the province, altogether about 128 miles of new road were constructed at a cost of Rs. 4,840, while some 2,793 miles of road were repaired at a cost of Rs. 15,360. Last year, excluding 4 miles of monorail tramway built at a cost of Rs. 12,635, only some 2,250 miles of road were repaired and 53 miles newly constructed at a total cost of Rs. 10,722. The increased expenditure on communications this year is a step in the right direction. If full use is to be made of new external markets for forest

produce which has been hitherto valueless owing to its inaccessibility, a larger proportion of the surplus income must be devoted to the construction of roads. The Allapilli monorail tramway worked fairly successfully after a good deal of modification, and has effected a considerable reduction in the cost of transporting logs to the saw mills.

Protection of forests.

109. The reports for the year show that there was in two of the three circles an increase in the number of forest offences reported. The increase is considered to be due not to an increase in the total number of forest offences committed, but to an improvement in the matter of supervision. This is strongly borne out by the fact that in the Chanda District the creation of two Divisions instead of one has resulted in a rise by 34 per cent. in the number of reported offences. The increase is marked in Berar and the Southern Circle. In the Northern Circle the figures are 2,490 for 1903-04 as against 3,805 in 1902-03, but a regular campaign against unauthorized grazing in 1902 in the Damoh Division alone produced a figure which exceeded that for 1903-04 by 1,922. If we deduct this the figures become almost normal, and indeed are practically identical with the average number of reported offences for the past three years.

Fire protection.

110. The measures for protection of forests from fire were, in the Northern Circle, somewhat less successful than in the previous year. Some 87 square miles were brought under systematic protection in addition to 1,717 square miles so protected in the previous year, but only 1,687 square miles out of the total area were successfully preserved from fire, and the cost per square mile successfully protected rose as a result from Rs. 9-3-11 to Rs. 9-11-1. In the south results were better, 97·8 per cent. of systematically guarded forest being successfully protected as against 97·5 in the preceding year, and this in spite of the fact that some 80 square miles were added to the area the protection of which had to be attempted. In Berar also improvement was shown upon the figures for 1902-03, the percentage of failure sinking to 2·01 from 2·69 in spite of adverse climatic conditions. The rainfall of 1903 was heavy, but it ceased in September and there was no rain in Berar in the cold weather, so that the fire season practically extended over a period of nine months.

Exploitation and management.

111. In the Central Provinces selection fellings were made in the sâl forests of Balaghat and in the teak forests of Allapilli in South Chanda, but apart from this the great bulk of the work of exploiting major forest-produce was carried out as improvement or coppice fellings, an area of 55,640 acres being thus dealt with in the Southern and 40,663 acres in the Northern Circle. The extraction of minor produce was nowhere carried on departmentally to any great extent, but was left for the most part to purchasers. Grazing-fees are included under the head of minor produce, and Rs. 2,01,121 was received on this account in the Northern and Rs. 1,78,369 in the Southern Circle; these figures are higher than those of the previous year. Exploitation by departmental agency then was practically confined to the extraction of major produce. Some 27,000 cubic feet of sâl logs were transported from Mandla to Jubbulpore, while other work was carried on in Damoh, Narsinghpur, &c. In Balaghat a contract was taken to supply a lakh of broad-gauge sleepers to the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, and nearly half that number were delivered; and some 70,000 cubic feet of poles were extracted from the Bhandara Division. Altogether 830,292 cubic feet of timber were extracted departmentally in the Southern Circle and 63,014 in the Northern, while 109,235 cubic feet of fuel were extracted in the north and 1,370,674 in the south. In Berar 12,371 cubic feet of timber and 481,097 of fuel were extracted by Government agency. The total value of the year's sales to purchasers of major and minor produce amounted to Rs. 4,89,734 in the Northern Circle, Rs. 5,03,748 in the Southern Circle, and Rs. 5,86,118 in Berar. The value of timber and other produce removed from the forest by Government agency gave a revenue of Rs. 2,69,858 in the Southern Circle, of Rs. 66,867 in the Northern Circle, and of Rs. 16,617 in Berar.

Financial results.

112. The financial results on the whole were highly satisfactory. In each of the three Circles the surplus in hand at the close of the year far exceeded the average of the previous five years, and in two cases it also exceeded the surplus remaining at the close of the previous year. In the Southern Circle receipts

increased by over a lakh during the year, leaving a surplus of Rs. 1,58,325 as against Rs. 83,788 in 1902-03 and a quinquennial average of Rs. 10,780. This large increase was, however, only temporary, being largely a result of the exploitation of the Balaghat forests, the revenue from which will, in the current year, be reduced. In Berar the surplus was Rs. 2,55,626, exceeding by Rs. 35,000 the figure for 1902-03, which was hitherto the highest on record. The increase here is attributable to a variety of causes, but the most noticeable is the rise in the receipts from grazing fees and sale of fodder grass, which improved on the previous year's figure by Rs. 44,872. In the Northern Circle the surplus was Rs. 1,84,968 as against Rs. 2,33,730 in 1902-03 and a quinquennial average of Rs. 6,861. The decrease from last year was due to less departmental work in Mandla and Jubbulpore owing to the absence of demand for railway sleepers, and to the stoppage of departmental works in Saugor, Betul and Nimar.

MINES AND QUARRIES. 5.—MINES AND QUARRIES.

[Report on the working of the Indian Mines Act in the Central Provinces for the calendar year 1903].

Mines under the Indian Mines Act.

113. There are two coal mines in the Central Provinces, one in the Chanda District and the other in the Narsinghpur District, which during the year gave a total yield of about 160,000 tons valued at over 7 lakhs of rupees. There is a mine for Fuller's earth and 15 limestone quarries in the Jubbulpore District with a yield for 1903 of some 35,000 tons of stone. Eleven manganese quarries came during the year under the operation of the Indian Mines Act, being brought within the category of mines as they are being worked at a greater depth than 20 feet below the surface of the ground. During 1903 the average number of persons employed in these mines was 7,856 including about 3,000 women and 240 children. Of these 5,904 worked below the surface of the ground; but only those employed in the coal mines, amounting to less than one-fifth of this total, were employed actually underground. No children were employed in underground working. The general health of the employés was good and the sanitary condition of the mines and quarries continued satisfactory. During the year only nine accidents of any importance were reported, and the majority of these were due to the carelessness of the labourers themselves. There were no prosecutions under the Act during the year.

The Warora Colliery.

114. The Government Colliery at Warora was worked without interruption throughout the year, but the output fell from 150,000 to 117,000 tons. The gross earnings fell by nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, and the net profit by some Rs. 78,000, the return per cent. on the capital expenditure declining from 16·24 to 11·58.

Manganese mining.

115. The returns of the annual output of manganese ore were necessarily incomplete as no account was taken of the mineral obtained from workings which do not come under the definition of a mine. Over 100,000 tons of ore, however, valued at the pit's mouth at about 2 lakhs of rupees, were extracted from the 11 concerns which are included in the list of mines. The industry has now become an important one in the districts of Nagpur, Bhandara and Balaghat, and gives employment to several thousands of persons. The opening of the Satpura Railway has greatly helped towards the development of manganese mining in Balaghat. The manganese of the Nagpur country is reported to be of a high quality as compared with the deposits in the Vizagapatam District, formerly the chief source of supply in India.

116. The extraction of iron ore in the native fashion is carried on in eight districts of the Central Provinces, the most important of which are Jubbulpore and Sambalpur. The returns are incomplete and are based upon the very roughest estimates. The provincial outturn of iron ore is probably not much more than 2,000 tons

117. The returns showing the number of applications for prospecting licenses, and the number of such applications granted, prove that the commercial interest in exploiting the mineral resources of the Central Provinces is growing rapidly. Twenty-one prospecting licenses and mining leases were sanctioned during the twelve months. The boring operations for coal at Ballarpur in the Chanda district were continued, two out of four bore-holes successfully meeting coal.

6.—MANUFACTURES.

[Provincial Resolution on the working of the Factories Act in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1903, also Table XIX-2—5 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1903-04.]

Number of factories.

118. The number of factories in existence at the end of 1903 considerably exceeded the number of the previous year, the increase being 25 in the Central Provinces and 51 in Berar. This increase is entirely due to the opening of new cotton presses and ginning factories, which have received an immense impetus from the recent rise in cotton prices. The total number of factories now at work is 391, of which no less than 379 are concerned with cotton. The number of the latter in 1901 was 231.

Employes.

119. The average daily number of persons employed in factories rose in the Central Provinces during the year from 20,800 to 22,070, and in Berar from 16,496 to 20,711. Of these some 4½ per cent. were children.

Health.

120. The general health of the factory workers was good, but it appears that in one or two matters there is room for some improvement. The opinion has been expressed that artificial ventilation should be introduced into presses and ginning factories to draw out the heavy cotton dust which is apt to get into the lungs of those employed and to induce phthisis. Managers themselves have admitted that life is generally unhealthy on account of this constant inhalation. It has been noticed also that in factory towns there is a higher infant mortality than elsewhere, but it has yet to be satisfactorily proved that this is connected with the character or quantity of work to which women workers in the factories are subjected. The unusual number of fatal and serious accidents that occurred during the year is a matter for regret. Enquiry has, however, made it evident that these accidents were in almost every case due to the carelessness of the persons injured.

Supervision.

121. The number of inspections made was much greater than in the previous year. The results were generally satisfactory, and it was found that the requirements of the law were commonly complied with. The rules as to the rest interval for women were reported to have been properly enforced. In four cases convictions were obtained against employers for working women and children over hours, but these were reversed upon appeal, as the women for fear of losing their employment retracted their statements previously made to the Inspecting Officer. In some 20 cases convictions against employers were passed and upheld, the majority coming from the Nimar District, where the working of the factories does not seem to be altogether satisfactory. In this connection, however, it must be remarked that there is still much doubt as to the correct interpretation of certain sections of the Act; more than one anomaly has been disclosed, for the settlement of which orders are required.

7.—TRADE.

[Report on the Rail-borne Traffic of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31st March 1904. Also Accounts of the Trade carried by Rail and River in India in the official year 1903-04.]

Character of the crops.

122. In an agricultural country the state of trade must depend almost entirely upon the success or the failure of the harvests, and as the crops of 1903 were generally good, it is not surprising to find that the position of trade improved. The crops which were material in determining the trade returns for the year ending with March of 1904 were those harvested in the spring and in the autumn of 1903, the former, of course, depending on the monsoon preceding that which governed the fortunes of the latter. The spring crops in Chanda, Bhandara, Balaghat and the Chhattisgarh Division were a failure, but in the north, wheat yielded the best harvest the Province had known for ten years. In the autumn, cotton, til and juar all suffered to some extent from excessive rain, a feature of the season which has been already discussed, and gave an outturn respectively of only 73, 86 and 71 per cent. of the normal in the combined area of the Central Provinces and Berar. The rice countries on the other hand reaped a fine harvest.

Prices.

123. The prices of all food-grains fell in a very remarkable degree, and have now indeed reached the level at which they stood prior to the recent cycle of bad seasons, and below which they are hardly likely to sink.

Among products other than food-grains the rise in the price of cotton was of the highest importance from the trader's point of view, the demand being extremely keen as a result of American speculation. There was, on the other hand, a sudden fall in the price of linseed due to the market being overstocked in consequence of the great rise of prices in 1900, while the price of til was lower than it had ever been during the past 40 years.

Total Trade.

124. The total imports for the Central Provinces in 1903-04 amounted to 10,248,000 maunds valued at $5\frac{3}{4}$ crores, the corresponding figures for 1902-03 being 9,938,000 maunds valued at $5\frac{1}{3}$ crores. Imports into Berar increased by 400,000 maunds in weight and by 32 lakhs in value. Exports from the Central Provinces increased as compared with 1902-03 by over 7 million maunds in weight and 83 lakhs in value. Berar, where the agricultural depression was never deep enough to make such expansion a possibility, showed a decrease of 2 million maunds in the weight of exports, but a rise of 67 lakhs in their value.

Imports.

125. In the matter of imports the position of food-grains was just the reverse of that of other commodities. While the latter imports increased during 1903-04 almost without a single exception, the former decreased by 5 per cent. in Berar and by 42 per cent. in the Central Provinces. This is a visible sign that the two countries, being both of them agricultural areas, are returning again to their normal condition of supplying, to a large extent, their own wants in the matter of food; but the difference in the degree to which this is accomplished by each country is also noteworthy. The Central Provinces are almost entirely self-supporting in the matter of food-grains. In the times of distress food-stuffs had of course to be introduced in enormous quantities from outside, but during five normal years prior to the famine era the value of imported grain had averaged only $10\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees, and during the year under review it fell from 34 lakhs, the figure for 1902-03, to $1\epsilon\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. In Berar on the other hand, where extensive areas of the best land are devoted to cotton, a considerable importation of grain is always necessary to feed the population. Moreover, juar, the only really important food-crop produced in Berar, was in 1903 a comparative failure. It is therefore not surprising to find that Berar imported over 2 million maunds of grain and pulses, a total which was four times as great as that recorded for the whole of the Central Provinces. As regards imported commodities other than grain and pulses, these depend directly upon the purchasing power of the people. A rise was recorded in the Central Provinces of the import figures for sugar, manufactured cotton, liquor, provisions, spices and metal goods, most of which are in a greater or less degree luxuries, and in Berar too the great wealth which followed the extension of cultivation and the rise in the price of cotton gave the people a larger surplus to expend on imports; and cotton manufactures, fruits and vegetables, oils, metals, provisions and sugar were all purchased in larger quantities than heretofore. These imports themselves need little comment in detail. But it may be noted that the imports of raw cotton into the Central Provinces, insignificant though they were in comparison with the exports, increased during 1903-04 by 57 per cent., amounting in all to nearly 200,000 maunds, showing that not only is the manufacture of cotton goods increasing in Nagpur, as statistics show, but that the Central Provinces ginning mills and cotton presses are taking work from outside, probably from Malwa, where cotton cultivation is rapidly extending. The import of salt again reached a record figure in the Central Provinces and rose too in Berar, while that of sugar also increased in both these areas.

Exports.

126. The bulk and value of exports from the Central Provinces again exceeded all previous records. Their weight increased from $19\frac{1}{2}$ millions of maunds in 1902-03 to 27 millions in 1903-04, while their value increased from 8 to nearly 9 crores of rupees. Though the high figures of the export trade in raw cotton and oilseeds have not been maintained, and those for coal, provisions, stone and lime, hemp and timber, have also shrunk, still there can be set against this a most satisfactory recovery in the grain trade and in the export of metals, the latter advancing with enormous strides owing to the rapidity with which the trade in manganese ore has been developed. In Berar though the value of exports rose, their bulk diminished as a direct result of the partial failure of the cotton crop. It was only the high price which raw cotton commanded that succeeded in preventing a really serious loss to the cultivating classes. In dealing with the exports

in detail it is noticeable that grain and other food-stuffs stand in contrast to other commodities, the former, with the exception of juar, increasing in amount, while practically all other exports except metals diminished. Wheat exports from the Central Provinces have since the last famine doubled year by year and stood this year at 4½ million maunds; rice exports rose from 494,000 to 1,490,000 maunds; gram and pulses rose by 55 per cent. Berar could not contribute towards this export trade in grain as the only food-crop (juar) which is grown in that Division to any great extent was this year a general failure. As regards other commodities, raw cotton exports fell by 5 per cent. in the Central Provinces and by 13 per cent. in Berar. Manufactured cotton, cotton seed, coal, dyes and tans, hemp and oil seeds were all of them also exported to a less extent this year than last, the explanation being no doubt that cotton, til (in the case of oil seeds) and myrabolams (for dyeing) all gave a poor yield as compared with the previous year, while particular causes interfered with the expansion of the coal and hemp exports.

General.

127. In general, however, the year was one of substantial progress. The bulk and value of the exports rose largely, leaving the balance of trade more than ever in favour of the province. The grain trade revived, cotton held its own, and the valuable manganese exports increased enormously. The price of food fell, wages were good, while the import statistics alone make it apparent to what extent the people have been able to avail themselves of minor comforts, turning to the luxuries of life when once the supply of its necessities was assured.

8.—PUBLIC WORKS.

PUBLIC WORKS.

[Finance Accounts of the Buildings and Roads Branch of the Public Works Department, Central Provinces, for 1903-04; also Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India for 1903-04].

IMPERIAL WORKS.

128. No Imperial works of any great importance were undertaken during the year. The chief objects of expenditure on the Military side were the completion of the Staff Sergeant's quarters at Kharagpur and Chakardarpur at an outlay of Rs. 13,807; and the construction, also at Kharagpur, of offices for the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Volunteers, on which a sum of Rs. 6,000 was expended. On the Civil side may be mentioned the building of new Post Offices at Pachmarhi, Raipur, Wun and Basim, and the construction of quarters for an Assistant Superintendent of Telegraphs at Nagpur. Over Rs. 60,000 was also spent on the bore-holes of the coal-fields at Ballarpur.

PROVINCIAL WORKS.

129. The total expenditure on Provincial works of all kinds amounted in the Central Provinces to 27½ lakhs, of which 12½ were spent on original works and the remainder on repairs and establishment. In Berar some Rs. 2,60,000 was expended on objects other than Imperial. The money was distributed in the following manner.

Forest Buildings.

130. The construction of Forest Officers' quarters was continued at Raipur and at Seoni, and was completed at Damoh. Altogether about Rs. 25,000 was expended under this head.

Land-Revenue Buildings.

131. Certain additions and alterations were carried out in the Tahsili buildings at Multai, Khandwa, Sohagpur, Harsud, Nagpur, Arvi, Chanda and Bilaspur in the Central Provinces, and at Morsi in Berar. An office and record room were also built for the District Registrar at Akola.

Secretariat Offices and residences.

132. An estimate amounting to 4½ lakhs of rupees was provisionally sanctioned for the construction of new Secretariat offices at Nagpur, and expenditure to the extent of Rs. 70,765 was incurred during the year in the collection of material. Rs. 28,000 was also spent on the construction of bungalows for officers of the Secretariat and Rs. 24,000 was spent in acquiring the sites for both of these buildings and of others which it is intended to construct.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Educational.

133. The hostel in connection with the Agricultural School at Nagpur was extended at a total cost of Rs. 12,000, and some Rs. 5,000 was spent in enclosing the site immediately adjoining the hostel on which the Victoria Technical Institute has been since erected. Rs. 23,000 was devoted to the construction of the new Training Institution at Jubbulpore. Apart from these more important works, smaller sums were expended on the improvement of schools, as much as Rs. 50,000 being utilized for this purpose in Berar.

Circuit Houses and Goverment Residences.

134. Circuit-houses were built at Jubbulpore, Pachmarhi and Chhindwara, and the old Circuit-house at Pachmarhi was added to. A bungalow was purchased for the Divisional Commissioner in Nagpur, and other Government residences were under construction at Hoshangabad, Betul, Wardha, Chanda, Jubbulpore, Nagpur and Khandwa. Government offices were also built at Hoshangabad and Wardha.

Jails.

135. In the Nagpur Central Jail an extension of the under-trial ward was in progress during the year and a bungalow for the Deputy Superintendent of Factories was completed. A double-storied hospital and circumvallation wall were nearly completed in connection with the Raipur Jail, while sleeping accommodation for European convicts and a new kitchen were added to the jail in Jubbulpore. A new Superintendent's office was constructed at the Akola Central Jail in place of the old building which was destroyed by fire, and in Amraoti important additions were made to the jail buildings involving an expenditure of over Rs. 37,000. Improvements on a smaller scale were also undertaken in a number of District Jails—at Betul, Khandwa, Hoshangabad, Chanda, Bhandara and Sambalpur, the most important of which was the construction of a new hospital at Chanda, together with other important repairs to the jail, the total cost of which was about Rs. 10,000.

Police Buildings.

136. The programme carried out during the year included a number of entirely new buildings, such as a Head-quarters Inspector's bungalow at Betul, and Police quarters at Balaghat, Pulgaon and Ambagarh, and Police offices at Bhandara and Murramgaon. The Police Reserve Lines were completed at Amraoti in Berar and Police stations built at Neir-Pinglai and Warkhed. Apart from these and other additions and alterations on a comparatively large scale, an expenditure of Rs. 10,800 was incurred in the Central Provinces on a variety of minor undertakings.

Asylums.

137. Large sums were expended on asylums in Nagpur. Rupees 21,000 was employed during the year in providing additional accommodation in the Lunatic Asylum, while Rs. 27,749 was spent in continuing the construction of the Leper Asylum, on which the expenditure had by the end of the year amounted to Rs. 60,000.

Communications.

138. The total outlay upon original works of communication amounted during the year to Rs. 4,55,157, while Rs. 7,73,902 was expended in repairs. In the Hoshangabad Division good work was done; culverts and causeways were finished on the Harda-Handia, the Piparia-Sobhapur, and Hoshangabad-Itarsi roads and the work on three sections of the Khargone-Sanawad road was completed at a cost of Rs. 44,146. The metalling of the Multai-Berar frontier road was also carried out at an expenditure up to the end of the year of Rs. 3,885, and the Mortakka-Mandhata road was raised to the standing of a Class I road at a cost of Rs. 12,790. In the Narsinghpur Division the only important work of the year was the completion of two sections of the Narsinghpur-Chhindwara road costing Rs. 26,751. In the Bhandara Division the Balaghat-Baihar road, begun as a famine work in 1897, was carried forward during the year at an expenditure of Rs. 5,652 in the second section, and of Rs. 14,113 in the third. Rs. 5,089 was spent in improving the Ghat section of the Seoni-Katangi road, and Rs. 20,000 in constructing the Karnapur-Lanji and Lalbarra-Sumnapur roads. In addition to this other minor road works involved an outlay of some Rs. 15,000. In the Nagpur Division the main undertaking of the year was the construction of the Chanda-Allapilli road. Work was in progress on four sections of the road and an expenditure of over Rs. 25,000 was incurred during the year. The next most important work was the Khapa-Patansaongi road which was completed after a further expenditure of Rs. 9,320. Sums of money varying between two and five thousand rupees were also spent on the Brahmapuri-Garchiroli, the Dhanora-Murramgaon and the Warora-PatalaRoads.

In the Eastern Division there are several highly important lines of communication to which attention was paid. The Rajim-Deobhog road was completed at a cost of Rs. 9,029, and 25 miles of the Simga-Kawardha road were also finished, involving an outlay during the year of over Rs. 19,000. The work on two sections of the Raj-Nandgaon-Antagarh road was pushed on and section II is now approaching completion. Rupees 13,164 was spent on the Raipur-Sambalpur road and Rs. 4,000 on the Nandghat-Mungeli road, while sufficient was done to the Arang-Khanar road to complete it as far as the 97th mile. No new roads were opened or commenced in the Jubbulpore Division and the work of the year consisted in repairing, improving or raising the standing of roads already in existence, or of continuing work begun in a previous year. Labour and material to the value of Rs. 9,000 were expended on the Sihora and Majholi-Singrampur road; Rs. 13,445 was spent on the Mandla-Ghugri road, and as much as Rs. 26,799 on the Dindori-Birsinghpur road. Besides these, three other roads were under construction in this Division. In the Saugor Division nothing of any real importance was accomplished. In the West Berar Division work consisted mainly of stone metalling and metal collection, Rs. 11,500 being spent in this way. In the East Berar Division the main work was stone metalling. Rupees 4,913 was thus spent on the Ellichpur-Badnur road, Rs. 1,184 on the Yeotmal-Wun road, and Rs. 2,207 on the Amraoti-Ellichpur road. Besides this, Rs. 4,646 was spent on protecting the high banks of the approach to the Bimla Bridge with iron railings.

INCORPORATED LOCAL FUNDS.

139. In the Central Provinces, where all roads have been provincialised, only Rs. 9,514 was expended on original works from the Incorporated Local Funds. In Berar, on the other hand, Rs. 74,320 was spent on original works from these Local Funds, and a further sum of Rs. 1,38,222 was spent on repairs and nearly Rs. 50,000 more on establishment and plant.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

140. The construction of the High School building at Khandwa was put in hand during the year and Rs. 4,640 expended on it. In Nagpur the erection of a combined Post-Office and Honorary Magistrate's Court was proceeded with, and an expenditure, bringing the total outlay up to Rs. 1,01,000 at the end of the year, was incurred on the Victoria Technical Institute begun in 1902. Rupees 6,710 was also spent on a new Town Hall at Hinganghat.

RAILWAYS, TRAMWAYS AND CANALS.

141. There are no canals as yet in the province though the construction of one in the Chhattisgarh Division is under contemplation. There are no railways or tramways under the control of the Local Government, with the solitary exception of the monorail tramway laid down for the working of the Chanda forests to which a reference has been already made.

9.—IRRIGATION.

IRRIGATION.

[Season and Crop Report of the Central Provinces for 1903-04, and the Administration Report of the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department for 1903-04.]

142. The total area irrigated throughout the whole province again decreased in 1903-04, as a consequence of the abundant rainfall. When rain is heavy and well distributed there is obviously little need of irrigation. It is most largely resorted to in a year of heavy falls of rain sufficient to replenish the tanks, followed by an early withdrawal of the monsoon. The latter condition, however, did not prevail in the year under review, and the irrigated area for 1902-03 (549,000 acres) fell accordingly in the following year to 317,651 acres. In Berar, where irrigation is mostly confined to garden crops, the area showed a decrease of 13 per cent. In the Central Provinces, the cultivated area watered from tanks decreased by just 50 per cent., from 457,000 to 226,000 acres. Well irrigation remained fairly constant. **Area under irrigation.**

IRRIGATION.

State irrigation.

143. The great bulk of irrigation in the Central Provinces and Berar is still the outcome of purely private local enterprise, being carried on by means of small tanks built entirely at the expense of the local proprietors. A new scheme for State irrigation, however, started about two years ago with the construction of major and minor works of irrigation partly as aided projects and partly under the direct control of Government; and this important enterprise was energetically continued during the year 1903, some 9½ lakhs being expended on protective and other irrigation works. The Irrigation Circle has been to some extent remodelled, so that at the close of the year there were two Executive Divisions—the Mahanadi and Wainganga Divisions, one independent Executive Charge, and two independent Sub-Divisions.

Major works.

144. The results achieved may be best set forth under the heads of Protective Major Works, Relief Works, and Minor Works. Under the first head are to be included some six tanks under construction at Khairbanda, Asola Mendha, Dorli, Rumal, Likni and Saighala. The last two tanks were practically completed during the year, but the others only advanced slowly—plague in particular interfering with the work at Khairbanda. Relief Works were represented by some 17 tanks opened to relieve distress in the Raipur District, an expenditure of Rs. 1,70,000 being incurred in their construction. Of these 9 were closed on the cessation of distress, but work was continued by contract on the five important tanks at Marowda, Khapri-Aranda, Khola, Kusrangi and Khaira-Datan, and on four others besides these.

Minor works.

145. As regards Minor Irrigation Works, an expenditure of 2¾ lakhs was incurred, of which Rs. 30,000 was spent on embanking wheat fields in Saugor, Damoh and Hoshangabad; while Rs. 76,000 was devoted to irrigation works on the grant-in-aid system, and Rs. 86,000 to similar enterprises undertaken entirely at the Government expense. It is estimated that the field embankments constructed on the Saugor system alone will irrigate an area of over 5,000 acres. Under the grant-in-aid system 22 tanks were under construction in Bhandara, 16 in Balaghat, 6 in Chanda, and 2 in the Jubbulpore District. Some were practically finished and most of them were well advanced by the end of the year, having been begun in the previous year in order to afford relief in those areas which were affected by the crop failure. Progress, however, was not as rapid as might have been expected and ordinary contractors had to be employed to expedite matters in place of the malguzars who had at first engaged to supervise the labour. Minor Works constructed entirely by Government took the form of 12 tanks in the ryotwari villages of the Balaghat District, 8 tanks in the South Wainganga Sub-Division, and 2 irrigation channels and 3 tanks in Raipur, besides which isolated schemes were undertaken in Chanda, Nimar, and Jubbulpore.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

PART I.—CENTRAL PROVINCES.

[Further details and statistics will be found in the Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India for the year 1903-04.]

GROSS REVENUE.

146. The following statement compares the receipts, expenditure and closing balance under the various heads of account for the years 1902-03 and 1903-04: — **Gross Revenue.**

Heads.	Receipts.		Expenditure.		Closing Balance.	
	1902-03.	1903-04.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1902-03.	1903-04.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imperial Revenues ...	51,46,700	44,77,468	11 44.640	12,24,632	...	...
Provincial Revenues ...	1,03,13,906	1,16,09,747	1,03.14,611	1,23,50,489	22,41,742	15,01,000
Local Funds—						
Incorporated ...	17,36,230	16,44,858	17,49,164	17,91,430	4,61,000	3,14,428
Excluded ...	4,38,328	4,59,468	4,30,313	4 54,737	1,49,030	1,53,762
Municipal Revenues ...	15.23,125	15,82,605	16,17,463	14,94 554	2,55.785	3,43,835
Total ...	1,91,58,289	1,97,74,146	1,52,56,191	1,73,15,842	31,07,557	23,13,025

(*a*) IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE.

147. The following statement compares the actuals of the two years 1902-03 and 1903-04. The major heads under which striking differences have occurred are given in detail, and the other heads are lumped together:— **Imperial Revenue.**

Revenue and Receipts.	Actuals.		Expenditure.	Actuals.	
	1902-03.	1903-04.		1902-03.	1903-04.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Land Revenue. { Proper ...	39,55,687	41,93,158	Stamps ...	10,577	14,701
{ Adjustment...	—27,17,505	—36,37,358	Forest ...	5,75,570	5,19,855
Opium ...	2,40,508	2,61,357	General Administration ...	67,337	1,05,268
Stamps ...	3,65,286	3,62,630	Ecclesiastical ...	45,039	64,379
Excise ...	16,90,584	19,20,199	Scientific and other Minor Departments.	25,180	9,693
Customs ...	1,21,664	1,32,387	Famine Relief ...	65,585	1,37,659
Assessed Taxes ...	1,79,517	1,48 443	Other heads ...	3.55,352	3,73,077
Forest ...	7,58,602	6,95,437			
Tributes ...	2,89,200	1,91,400			
Interest ...	6,400	54			
Receipts in aid of Superannuation, &c.	42,701	47,933			
Miscellaneous ...	1,69,919	1 18,496			
Other heads ...	44,137	43,332			
Total ...	51,46,700	44,77,468	Total ...	11,44,640	12,24,632

148. LAND REVENUE—*Imperial share one-half.*—The increase under Land Revenue was due to the collection of a larger kharif kist or instalment payable from the autumn crops, as it has been directed that in ordinary years there should be no arrears of this kist.

149. CANAL REVENUE.—There is no canal revenue in this province.

SOURCES OF IMPERIAL REVENUE OTHER THAN LAND.

150. CUSTOMS—*Imperial.*—The increase was due to good cotton crops.

151. OPIUM—*Imperial.*—The increase is attributable to the marked increase in the sale of opium on account of the co-operation of the Police force and special detective agency in bringing to justice habitual offenders in the matter of opium smuggling.

152. EXCISE—*Imperial share three-quarters.*—The increase was due to a larger consumption of liquor owing to the better condition of the commercial and agricultural classes. There was no difference in the expenditure.

153. SALT – *Imperial share three-fourths.*—There is no revenue in these provinces under this head. The receipts on account of Northern India and Baragora salts are passed on to the Governments of India and of Bombay, respectively.

154. STAMPS – *Imperial share one-fourth.*—There was a decrease in the sale of court-fee stamps, which was due to the prompt repayment of debts without recourse to litigation consequent on the improved condition of the people. The increase in expenditure was due to the fact that in the preceding year smaller supplies of stamps were received from the Central Stores.

155. ASSESSED TAXES—*Imperial share one-half.*—The decrease was due to the raising of the minimum taxable limit of income from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 per annum since April 1903.

156. FORESTS—*Imperial share one-half.*—The decrease was due to the smaller supply of sleepers to the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. The same cause explains the decrease in expenditure.

157. ANY OTHER TAXES LEVIED FOR IMPERIAL REVENUES.—The decrease under "Tributes" was due to excess recovery of Rs. 53,000 in 1902-03 on account of arrear and advance collections and to the suspension of tribute of Rs. 35,000 from the Khairagarh State in 1903-04.

The decrease under "Interest" was due to the fact that interest for three years has been remitted by the Government of India, *vide* Finance telegram dated the 16th January 1903.

The increase under "Receipts in aid of superannuation" was due to the raising of the rates of subscription under the Indian Civil Service Family Pension Regulations.

The decrease under "Miscellaneous" was due to the recoveries of famine expenditure being less in 1903-04 than in 1902-03.

On the expenditure side the increase under "General Administration" was due to the transfer of the office of Comptroller, Hyderabad, and to the charges of the Special Committee appointed to settle matters connected with the amalgamation of Berar, while that under "Ecclesiastical" was due to the appointment of a Bishop and of an additional Chaplain. The decrease under "Scientific and other minor departments" was due to the fact that there were no census charges in 1903-04. The increase under "Famine Relief" was due to larger expenditure on relief works on account of famine than in the previous year.

(*b*) REVENUE AND FINANCE OTHER THAN IMPERIAL.

138. The following statement compares the actuals of the two years 1902-03 and 1903-04. The major heads under which striking differences occurred are shown in detail and the others are lumped together :—

Revenue and Receipts.	Actuals. 1902-03.	Actuals. 1903-04.	Expenditure.	Actuals. 1902-03.	Actuals. 1903-04.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Opening Balance ...	22,42,447	22,41,742			
Land Revenue { Proper ...	39 55,686	41,93,158	Land Revenue ...	12,47,370	13,04,264
Land Revenue { Adjustments ...	+ 27,17,505	+ 36,37,358	Stamps ...	31,732	44,104
Stamps ...	10,95,856	10,87,890	Forest ...	5,75,569	5,19,855
Excise ...	5,63,527	6,40,067	General Administration ...	5,76,969	6,19,584
Provincial Rates ...	2,21,870	2,46,032	Law and { Courts of Law ...	10,73,987	11,88,022
Assessed Taxes ...	1,79,517	1,48,443	Justice. { Jails ...	4,57,208	4,43,412
Forest ...	7,58 603	6,95,437	Police ...	15,04,685	15,25,216
Interest ...	96,699	1,49,357	Education ...	4,38,369	4,89,342
Post Office ...	28,238	14,610	Medical ...	3,41,621	4,02,636
Law and { Courts of Law ...	1,19,060	1,23,625	Scientific and other Minor	93,140	1,49,281
Justice. { Jails ...	2,18,445	1,50,288	Departments.		
Other heads ...	3,42,851	3,45,561	Superannuation and Retired	3,87,228	4,16,073
Contributions from Local Funds ...	16,049	1,77,921	Allowances.		
			Stationery and Printing ...	1,74,054	2,24,592
			Miscellaneous ...	94,812	13,57,124
			Minor Works and Navigation	98,889	2,75,169
			Civil Works ...	25,82,498	28,00,260
			Other heads ...	2,72,179	2,66,536
			Contributions to Local Funds...	3,64,301	3,25,019
Total ...	1,03,13,906	1,16,09,747	Total ...	1,03,14,611	1,23,50,489
			Closing Balance ...	22,41,742	15 01,000
GRAND TOTAL ...	1,25,56,353	1,38,51,489	GRAND TOTAL ...	1,25,56,353	1,38,51,489

159. PROVINCIAL REVENUES.—Besides the variations under *Divided Heads* explained in the section "Imperial Revenue and Finance," there is a rise under "*Provincial Rates*" attributable to better collection of cesses than in the previous year. Larger recoveries on account of "Interest on advances to cultivators" in a year of plenty account for the increase under "*Interest.*" The decrease in *Post Office* receipts was due to the recovery of arrear contributions from Feudatory States in the previous year. The decrease under "*Law and Justice—Jails*" was due to a fall in the number of prisoners and to the closing of the Tent Factory at Jubbulpore Central Jail. The increase under "*Contributions from Local Funds*" was due to contributions from District Councils for the maintenance of the local roads which have been provincialized since 1st April 1903.

On the expenditure side the increases which occurred may be explained as follows:—Under *Land Revenue* and *Law and Justice—Courts of Law* the increase was due to unusual expenditure on account of salaries of officers of District Administration and the revision of ministerial establishments; under *General Administration* it was due to a rise in the salary of the Chief Commissioner, increased expenditure on account of salaries of Secretaries and Under Secretaries, appointment of officers on special duty, transfer of Hyderabad offices to Nagpur on the amalgamation of Berar, and the revision of Secretariat establishment; under *Police* it was due to the increased establishment and travelling allowance charges of the Inspector-General of Police on account of the amalgamation of Berar, and to the employment of a special duty Police establishment; under *Education* on account of the transfer of girls' schools from Local Boards to Government management; under *Medical* it was attributable to the grant of Rs. 25,000 to Dispensary Funds for the construction of dispensary buildings, and also to a Provincial grant of Rs. 30,000 to the Jubbulpore Municipality for plague expenditure; under *Scientific and other Minor Departments* it was due to new Experimental Farms and to the increased charges on account of the Gazetteer and Statistical Memoirs; under *Superannuation and Retired Allowances* it was due to new pensions and transfers from other Provinces;

under *Stationery and Printing* it was due to printing done at private presses and to a larger supply of stationery to the Jail and Secretariat Presses on account of the amalgamation of Berar; under *Miscellaneous* it was attributable to large amounts having been written off on account of irrecoverable loans to cultivators granted chiefly during famine; under *Minor Works and Navigation* and *Civil Works in charge of Public Works Officers* it was due to the irrigation scheme and to expenditure from the assignment of Rs. 5,00,000 sanctioned from Imperial Revenues in 1902-03 for special projects in 1903-04, respectively. The decrease under "*Contributions to Local Funds*" was due to the fact that in 1902-03 special grants to the extent of Rs. 1,10,000 were sanctioned for the construction of District Council schools, whereas the special grants sanctioned in 1903-04 were Rs. 25,000 and Rs. 16,500 to the District Funds, for village water-supply and to cover deficit balances respectively. Rs. 35,024 was also contributed to the Patwari Fund to prevent its closing with a deficit balance on 31st March 1904.

160. LOCAL FUNDS.—These funds comprise Incorporated and Excluded Local Funds. The income, expenditure and opening and closing balances of the Incorporated Local Funds for the year 1903-04 were as follows:—

Name of the Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
District Funds	3,15,426	11,52,430	14,67,856	11,85,688	2,82,168
Patwari Funds	1,15,084	* 4,83,340	5,98,424	5,98,424	...
Inland Labour Transport Fund ...	30,490	9,088	39,578	7,318	32,260
Total ...	4,61,000	16,44,858	21,05,858	17,91,430	3,14,428

161. ROAD CESSES AND EDUCATION CESSES.—These cesses together amounted to Rs. 4,37,682 and form the most important source of the income of the District Funds, which also received contributions from Government aggregating Rs. 2,48,495 towards the general purposes of the fund, and special grants amounting to Rs. 16,500 and Rs. 25,000 during the year to cover the deficit balances of the Bhandara and Raipur District Funds and for village water-supply, respectively. As compared with the receipts of last year there was an increase of Rs. 19,103 under Road and Education cesses taken together, and a decrease of Rs. 76,288 under Patwari Fund receipts; in the former case the rise was due to better collections than in the previous year, and the fall in the latter was due to remissions in certain districts affected by famine which necessitated the contribution of a Provincial grant of Rs. 35,024 to keep the fund solvent.

Excluded Local Funds include Cantonment Funds, Town and Bazar Funds, Police Remount Funds, Dispensary Funds, Museum Funds, Famine Orphan Charitable Relief Funds, and Education Funds. The total transactions and the balances are shown in the statement under "Gross Revenue."

162. MUNICIPAL REVENUES.—The transactions and the balances of the Municipal Funds are also shown above. The receipts include Rs. 85,862 on account of Government grants, and Rs. 15,103 on account of subscriptions from private persons for general and educational purposes.

PART II.—BERAR.

GROSS REVENUE.

163. The following statement compares the receipts, expenditure and closing balance under the various heads for 1902-03 and 1903-04:—

Heads.	Receipts.		Expenditure.		Closing Balance.	
	1902-03.	1903-04.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1902-03.	1903-04.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
General Revenues ...	1,13,04,548	1,17 38,511	89,55,944	66,96,938	23,48,604	50,41,573
Local Funds—						
Incorporated ...	10,38,996	9,61,645	8,76.357	8,75.064	9,13,896	9,02,314
Excluded ...	8,94,365	67,592	8,44.530	76,257	46,520	37,855
Municipal Revenues ...	3,20,815	2,79,879	3,16,452	2,71,215	2,47,422	2,56,086
Total ...	1,35,58,724	1,30,47,627	1,09,93,283	79,19,474	35,56,442	62,37,828

NOTE—The revenues of Berar were Provincial for the first six months (April to September) of 1902-03 and Imperial for the second half of the year. For purposes of comparison, however, the revenues are treated as Imperial for the entire period.

(*a*) IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE.

164. The following statement shows the Imperial receipts and expenditure of Berar for 1903-04 as compared with those of 1902-03:—

Receipts.	1902-03.	1903-04.	Expenditure.	1902-03.	1903-04.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Provincial Heads of Revenue.			*Direct demands on the Revenue.*		
I.—Land-Revenue.	74,53,315	78,30,144	1.—Refunds and drawbacks.	17,413	21,542
II.—Opium ...	60,375	...	2.—Assignments and Compensations.	12,145	25,11,463
IV.—Stamps ..	8,76,657	8,48,375	3.—Land-Revenue ...	14,62,708	13,60,513
V.—Excise ...	15,70,720	19,94,330	4.—Opium ...	10	...
VII.—Customs ...	16,360	16,984	6.—Stamps ...	34,119	29,511
VIII.—Assessed Taxes.	15,587	24,817	7.—Excise ...	23,627	22,452
IX.—Forest ...	5,34,530	6,07,159	11.—Forest ...	2,13,948	2,41,257
X.—Registration ...	90,689	97,065	12.—Registration ...	50,942	49,583
Total ...	1,06,18,233	1,14,18,874	Total ...	18,14,912	42,36,321
XII.—Interest ...	30,856	22,071	14.—Interest on other obligations.	4,76,094	1,502
			15.—Post Office ...	8,843	8,816
Receipts by Civil Departments.			*Salaries and Expenses of Civil Departments.*		
			18.—General Administration...	3,06,410	1,95,835
XVI-A.—Law and Justice—Courts of Law.	53 259	37,278	19-A.—Law and Justice—Courts of Law.	3,01,765	3,00,737
XVI-B.—Law and Justice—Jails.	29,755	30,274	19-B.—Law and Justice—Jails	84,625	78,760
XVII.—Police ...	82.530	77,669	20.—Police ...	5,62,043	5,56,624
XIX.—Education ...	47,963	37,721	22.—Education ...	2,01,165	2,54,557
XX.—Medical ..	2,662	2,059	23.—Ecclesiastical ...	1,116	7,142
XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments.	792	215	24.—Medical ...	1,82,327	1,72,373
			26.—Scientific and other Minor Departments.	19,730	15,682
Total ...	2,16,961	1,85,216	Total ...	16,59,181	15,81,665

Receipts.	1902-03.	1903-04.	Expenditure.	1902-03.	1903-04.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
			Miscellaneous Civil Charges.		
Miscellaneous.			27.—Territorial ...	35,216	27,995
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation.	39,649	34,151	29—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.	3,24,094	1,73,076
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing.	7,164	4,218	Total ...	3.59,310	2,01,071
XXV.—Miscellaneous...	1,07,967	63 530	30.—Stationery and Printing...	80.293	38.317
Total ...	1,54,780	1,01.899	32.—Miscellaneous ...	16,66,831	17,666
			Total ...	17,47,124	55 983
Railway Revenue Account.			33.—Famine Relief ...	1,282	104
XXVI.—State Railways	1,12,549	.....	*Railway Revenue Account.*		
			38.—State Railways ..	52,330	...
XXXII.—Civil Works ...	16 434	10,451	44.—Military Works ...	4,781	2,442
XXXIII.—Army Military Department, H. C.	1,54,735	.....	45.—Civil Works ...	6,73,425	6,09,034
			46.—Army ...	20,92,662	...
			Adjusting Heads ...	66,000	...
Total ...	1,13,04.548	1,17,38,511	Total ...	89,55,944	66,96,938

RECEIPTS.

LAND REVENUE.

165. The increase in the year under report is due to revised rates of revenue, sanctioned by the Government of India, having come into effect in some of the districts from the spring of 1904.

CANAL REVENUE.

166. There is no revenue under this head.

SOURCES OF REVENUE OTHER THAN LAND.

167. *Opium.*—The receipts under this head represent the duty levied on opium imported into the province. They were credited under the head V. Excise, and hence no receipts appear under this head.

Stamps.—The fall is under "Sale of court-fee stamps" and is apparently due to a decrease in litigation.

Excise.—The increase is chiefly due to better agricultural seasons.

Assessed Taxes.—The actuals for 1903-04 represent the receipts for twelve months, while those of 1902-03 are for only six months, from 1st October 1902, prior to which the receipts were passed on to India.

Forest.—The increase is under timber, firewood and grazing and fodder grass, and is apparently due to greater demand for forest produce.

Registration.—The improvement is apparently due simply to an increase in the number of documents registered.

Law and Justice (*Courts of Law*).—The decrease is chiefly under sale-proceeds of unclaimed and escheated property, a fluctuating head of receipt.

Education.—The temporary closing of schools in some of the districts on account of plague caused a fall under "Fees, Schools, General" in 1903-04.

Receipts in aid of Superannuation.—The decrease is under "Contributions for pensions and gratuities." It is partly due to a smaller number of retirements among Local Fund servants and partly to smaller receipts from contributions of officers lent to Foreign Service.

Miscellaneous.—The decrease is chiefly under "Gain by exchange on local transactions and supply bills." The credits on this account as well as loss by exchange on the payments side were omitted from the account during 1903-04.

State Railways.—The receipts and expenditure of the Amraoti and Khamgaon State Railways were incorporated in the Hyderabad Assigned Districts accounts up to 30th September 1902, and from 1st October they were incorporated in the books of the Accountant-General, Public Works Department, and hence the decrease.

Civil Works and Military.—The transactions of these departments are also now accounted for by the Accountant-General, Public Works and Military Departments.

EXPENDITURE.

168. On the expenditure side the variations are :—

Assignments and Compensations.—The increase is due to the payment of the quit-rent of Rs. 25,00,000 to His Highness the Nizam on the lease of Berar.

Land Revenue.—The decrease of Rs. 1,02,000 is made up of (1) Rs. 16,000 under Charges of District Administration, due to savings under *salaries* of gazetted officers; (2) Rs. 10,000 under Land Records and Agriculture, due to reduction in the Land Records establishment, and (3) Rs. 76,000 under Allowances to District and Village Officers, due to there being no arrears for payment in 1903-04.

Interest on other obligations.—The decrease is due to the adjustment of the interest on Berar Famine Loan in the books of the Comptroller, India Treasuries.

General Administration.—The decrease is due to the amalgamation of Berar with the Central Provinces.

Education.—The increase is only nominal, as the contribution of Rs. 66,000 to Local Funds for primary education is now shown under this head, while in 1902-03 it was shown under the adjusting heads.

Ecclesiastical.—The post of Chaplain was vacant in 1902-03.

Medical.—The decrease is chiefly under "Sanitation and Vaccination" and is due to the abolition of the post of a separate Sanitary Commissioner for Berar from 1st November 1903.

Scientific and other Minor Departments.—The decrease is under Census.

Territorial and Political Pensions, Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.—The pensions paid in other provinces were not passed on to Berar from April 1903, and hence large decrease under these heads.

Stationery and Printing.—The savings were under "Government Presses" owing to the transfer of the administration to the Central Provinces.

Miscellaneous.—The large decrease under this head is explained below. (1) Rs. 15,31,000 was due to payment to Local Funds and other bodies of the amount due to them by Government on account of their balances on the 30th September 1902, when the province was declared Imperial, (2) Rs. 1,04,000 was on account of loss by exchange which has been stopped by importing Government rupees to the Hyderabad Civil Treasury from the nearest British Government Treasury from January 1904, and (3) Rs. 8,000 was on account of charges for the Berar Volunteer Corps, which are borne by Military Department, Madras, from 1903-04.

State Railways and Civil Works.—These transactions are adjusted in the books of the Accountant-General, Public Works Department, from 1st October 1902.

Army.—These transactions are now adjusted in the books of the Accountant General, Military Department.

(*b*) REVENUE AND FINANCE OTHER THAN IMPERIAL.

169. LOCAL FUNDS.—The Local Funds in Berar consist of one Incorporated Local Fund known as the District Fund and three Excluded Local Funds. There were, however, several other Excluded Local Funds outside Berar, the transactions of which were also incorporated in the Berar books until the transfer of the audit of these funds to the books of the Comptroller of India Treasuries in March 1904.

District Fund.—This fund derives its major portion of income from the surplus of the following cesses:—Jaglia and Local Cess, Education Cess, Road Cess, Town Assessment and Bazar Cess.

Excluded Local Funds.—The following are the Excluded Local Funds in Berar:—Cantonment Fund, Ellichpur; Taluq Fund, Melghat; and Cotton Market Funds. The Excluded Local Funds in Hyderabad transferred to the audit of the Comptroller of India Treasuries are:—

(1) Secunderabad Local Abkari Fund.
(2) Secunderabad Cantonment Fund.
(3) Residency Local Fund (Reserved Heads).
(4) Bazar Fund, Hyderabad Residency.
(5) Bazar Cess Fund, Hyderabad Contingent Station.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES.

1.—DETAILS OF CENSUS.

DETAILS OF CENSUS.

170. An account of the above subject will be found on pages 31—52 of the Report on the administration of the Central Provinces for 1901-02, and on pages 22—25 of the Report on the administration of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts for the same year.

2.—BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending December 31st, 1903, and Table XIII—2-13 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1903-04.]

171. No change was made in the system of registration of births and deaths during the year, except that the statistics from the Berar Division, where the method of reporting vital occurrences is practically the same as in the Central Provinces, were amalgamated with those of the latter area. Reference has more than once been made in past years to the unsatisfactory character of urban registration, but during 1903 clear evidence was forthcoming of an improvement in this respect in those towns, at any rate, where the efficiency or otherwise of registration was not obscured by the high mortality resulting from plague. In rural areas a comparatively high standard of accuracy in the registration of deaths appears to have been maintained, though the record of births still left something to be desired.

System of registration.

172. The birth-rate for 1903, both in the Central Provinces and Berar, showed a general decline from the unusually high figure recorded for 1902. But remembering that even the rate *per mille* now returned (*viz.*, 44·27 in the Central Provinces and 48·16 in Berar) is, if we exclude 1902, one of the highest which has been obtained for the last 20 years, the most natural explanation must be that the decline as compared with 1902 is not so much a sign of lessening vitality as of mere natural exhaustion after the unusual productiveness of the previous 12 months. This too is confirmed by the fact that the decrease in the birth-rate appears in 22 out of the 24 districts. If, as might be supposed, it were merely the result of plague, the decline would not be so general, nor would the two districts of Narsinghpur and Hoshangabad, which are among the five districts of the Central Provinces which suffered most from this terrible epidemic, be able to show a slight increase in the birth-rate. The birth statistics show that to every 100 females 105 males were born in the Central Provinces and Berar. It is also interesting to find that the rural birth-rate is much higher than the urban, the difference being 7·65 *per mille* in the Central Provinces and 8·27 in Berar.

Births.

173. The total number of deaths registered in the Central Provinces was 330,104, giving a ratio of 33·79 *per mille* of population against 25·82 in 1902. The decennial mean was 32·44. In Berar a death-rate of 41·74 *per mille* was recorded as against 32·80 in 1902 and a decennial mean of 35·3. Much of the increased mortality was due of course to plague; but other causes co-operated. Even apart from plague the year was less healthy than 1902, delayed and heavy rainfall following upon a comparatively dry year being a conjunction that usually leads to some deterioration in the public health. As a result the increase in the death-rate was very general, being recorded in all districts of Berar, and in all but three of the Central Provinces.

Deaths.

174. The mortality among infants of less than one year of age was very heavy, amounting to 290 *per mille* for males and 261 for females in the Central Provinces, and in Berar 266 for males and 243 for females. The figures for the various districts vary most regularly according to the presence or absence of plague, and the conclusion is inevitable that many infants died directly of this disease, or from exposure and mal-nutrition consequent upon it.

Infant mortality.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

Chief diseases.

175. The year was on the whole a somewhat unhealthy one. There were two outbreaks of cholera—one in the Jubbulpore District at Kutni and the other in the Wun and Chanda Districts—which accounted for 363 lives. Small-pox carried off 2,000 persons in the Central Provinces, though it made no head-way in Berar. The deaths from dysentery and diarrhœa numbered over 33,000, the heavy rainfall of 1903 following a long dry season rendering the people liable to these forms of bowel disease. But above all the factors of especial importance were, firstly, the plague, of which there were two epidemics, one in the earlier and another in the later months of the year, and, secondly, fever. It is estimated that in the Central Provinces and Berar some 60,000 persons fell victims to the plague. It raged with especial violence in the districts of Nagpur, Jubbulpore, Hoshangabad, Nimar, Narsinghpur, Amraoti, Akola and Buldana, and gave the country a respite only during May, June and July. Fever was credited with carrying off in the Central Provinces about 160,000 persons or 48 per cent. of the total mortality; and in Berar 31,000 persons or 27½ per cent. were reported to have died of it. There is no doubt that many deaths due to measles or the plague were credited to fever, but after making due allowance for this it would appear that malarial fevers were more prevalent and fatal in some parts, at any rate, of the province than in the previous year. This again is what might be expected in a wet year following on a dry one.

Prevention of malaria.

176. Special measures were proposed for the prevention of malaria in five selected Municipal towns. The result was a failure owing to the want of energetic direction and support. In Bhandara and Bilaspur nothing at all was done and the fever mortality in 1903 was higher even than before. In Khandwa and Hoshangabad some effort was made, but the fever mortality returns were obscured in both towns by the presence of the plague epidemic, and no definite conclusions could be come to.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

3.—EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

[Report on Inland Emigration of the Central Provinces for the year ending 30th June 1904 and Table XXXV-4 of the Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India.]

Emigration.

177. In spite of an increase in the strength of the recruiting agency the number of emigrants to the Assam labour districts from the Central Provinces fell during the year in a marked manner. Of the 3,367 labourers who emigrated, 1,894 were males and 1,473 females; they were accompanied by 1,026 dependants. In the previous year 6,709 emigrants were recruited who took with them no fewer than 8,580 dependants. This decrease was mainly due to the improvement in the local labour market. Food too was plentiful and cheap, and the crops were excellent in the principal districts of recruitment, with the result that there was as a rule no special inducement for labourers to seek outside employment. The chief recruiting centres have been, as usual, the districts of the Chhattisgarh Division. A very noticeable feature of the returns is the poor results obtained by garden-sardars. Some two thousand sardars who came down to the recruiting districts only managed to get 1,490 coolies; 683 sardars in Bilaspur recruited only 443 persons, and 566 in Sambalpur 386 persons.

Health of Emigrants.

178. The accommodation provided for emigrants was fairly good everywhere, except in the Raipur District, where improvements are being made to secure greater convenience for the coolies. Generally speaking, the health of the emigrants was good. The depôts were regularly inspected and no epidemic of any sort occurred in them.

Working of Act VI of 1901.

179. The district reports show that the provisions of the Act have been intelligently administered and that care has been taken in supervising the work of the persons engaged in recruitment for Assam. The offences which came to light were not generally of a serious nature. In Sambalpur there were numerous cases of desertions among the garden-sardars sent to the district to recruit labourers. Many of these men crossed into the adjoining Native States and disappeared. Complaint has been made of the inferior type of persons sent down by the tea plantations as garden-sardars, and the poor results which the latter obtained during the year would seem to show that greater care is called for in their selection.

180. The total receipts from fees amounted to Rs. 7,700 against Rs. 10,500 last year. Registration fees accounted for Rs. 3,100, while Rs. 4,600 was realised as license fees. **Financial.**

181. There is seldom any immigration into the Central Provinces at any time and none of any importance has been reported during the year under review. In Berar there is nothing to record either as regards emigration or immigration. Recruitment for Assam is not in force in that Division. **Immigration.**

4.—MEDICAL RELIEF.

MEDICAL RELIEF.

[Notes on the Annual Statements of Hospitals and Dispensaries of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1903, and Table XIV-2—6 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for the year 1903-04.]

182. The total number of dispensaries in the Central Provinces and Berar amounted to 245 on the last day of 1903, of which 37 were supported by the State and 24 by Local Funds, the remainder being either private or State-aided institutions. These figures cannot be compared with those of previous years, as the latter refer to the Central Provinces only and do not include dispensaries in Berar. However, it is satisfactory to record that while a branch dispensary in Betul was the only one closed during the year, eight new dispensaries were opened in various parts of the country and these were soon to be supplemented by four others, the construction of which was made possible by a special grant of Rs. 25,000 sanctioned in May of 1903. **Number of dispensaries.**

183. In the Central Provinces the total number of patients treated was 1,246,775, a decrease of 101,236 or about $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as compared with 1902. In Berar the total number treated was 313,652, a decrease of 46,301 or nearly 13 per cent. as compared with 1902. This decline in attendance had reference to both out-door and in-door patients, the peculiarity of the year's returns being in this, as in so many other cases, the result of plague. From a general point of view the decline is surprising, as it would be natural to look for an increase in attendance in a year which was on the whole far more unhealthy than the one that preceded it—the consequence, as has been explained in an earlier section, of a wet year following a dry one. But in particular this decrease in the number of those demanding medical treatment is remarkable as having occurred just when a serious epidemic showed itself. This rather curious inversion of what one might expect was not altogether the result of popular distrust of Government methods. Many sick persons, especially those with any febrile symptoms, were indeed so unreasoning as to avoid the hospitals, fearing that if they presented themselves something untoward might happen. But the main reason for the fall in the number of patients was no doubt the fact, that as the epidemic progressed the towns were in many cases practically deserted for considerable periods, the inhabitants were scattered over the neighbouring country, and even if they were eager to attend the hospital were probably deterred from doing so through fear of approaching the centre of infection. **Number of patients.**

184. The private dispensaries, of which 28 were maintained by Feudatory States and the remainder chiefly by Missionary bodies, rose in number during 1903 from 45 to 49 and were resorted to by 440,218 patients. It is noteworthy that the attendance at the Feudatory States dispensaries showed an increase of 19,195 as compared with 1902, while attendance at the Dhamtari Mission Dispensary in the Raipur District sprang up from under 2,000 to over 14,000. There are no private dispensaries in Berar. **Private dispensaries.**

185. The most important fluctuations in the number of patients treated for different diseases are to be found in a decrease of 40,000 in the number of fever cases in the Central Provinces and of 32,000 in Berar. Cases of skin disease in the Central Provinces increased by 9,000, while ulcer cases decreased by the same amount. In Berar the number of eye-diseases fell by 5,400. The only variation among these figures which admits of explanation is the low number of fever cases brought for treatment. This, as was said above, is attributable more to the plague scare than to any decline in the prevalence of this disease. **Relative frequency of diseases.**

186. In the Central Provinces the number of surgical operations performed in 1903 totalled 28,659, or 5,143 less than in 1902; while in Berar 9,693 operations **Surgical operations.**

were performed as against 11,415 in the previous year. There seems no reason to doubt that these lower figures, though due partly of course to the diminished attendance, are also in part to be attributed to the exercise of greater care in registration. The majority of the operations performed were surgically trivial, consisting of nothing more than the extraction of teeth or the opening of abscesses.

Income.

187. The Central Provinces Administration, the District and Municipal Funds, and Native subscribers, all contributed more freely to the upkeep of dispensaries than in the previous year. The total income in the Central Provinces amounted to Rs. 2,96,212, and in Berar to Rs. 1,09,598. As a point of divergence from the practice in the Central Provinces it may be noted that in Berar the civil hospitals at head-quarter stations are maintained entirely by Government; nothing is contributed locally either by Natives or Europeans although these hospitals do the work of charitable dispensaries in addition to what they do for the Police and other Government servants. As a result, nearly 87 per cent. of the total cost of hospitals and dispensaries was borne in Berar by the Government. In the Central Provinces the proportion was under 25 per cent., though to this should be added the cost of Police hospitals, since in Berar the work of the latter is done by the general dispensaries.

Expenditure.

188. The total expenditure in the Central Provinces was Rs. 2,10,878, practically the same as in 1902, but the financial condition of several dispensaries is still unsatisfactory. The expenditure in Berar amounted to Rs. 88,524.

TREATMENT OF THE INSANE. 5.—TREATMENT OF THE INSANE.

[Notes on the Annual Statements on the Lunatic Asylums in the Central Provinces for the year 1903 and Table XV-2-8 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1903-04.]

Numbers and health.

189. There was but little change to be found in the number of inmates in the Nagpur and Jubbulpore Asylums during 1903. The figures for both were practically identical with those of 1902. In Nagpur, however, the year was not as healthy for the inmates as it proved to be in Jubbulpore. The female inmates in Nagpur suffered in particular; 31 were attacked by an epidemic of influenza and 7 of them died. Lung complications too were common and severe.

Investigation of causes.

190. No advance seems to have been made this year in diagnosing the causes of insanity in the case of new admissions. In 1902 the insanity of no less than one-fourth of these proved incapable of adequate explanation, and the same proportion held good for Jubbulpore in 1903. In the Nagpur Asylum, in 1903, the cause of insanity was recorded as unknown in more than half of the new admissions. Apart from the inherent difficulty of discovering the cause, opinions on such a difficult question must always, in the absence of a specialist, be very guarded and indefinite.

Expenditure.

191. The average cost per head in the Nagpur Asylum was Rs. 90-6-6, and in the Jubbulpore Asylum Rs. 60-8-5. In the Nagpur Asylum the diet charges were much higher than in Jubbulpore, but this seems to have been in some measure due to a difference in the system of accounts, as the Nagpur charges included Rs. 1,894-7-6 on account of articles which were supplied by the Asylum Dairy and Farm. Even this, however, would not adequately account for the difference between the two scales of expenditure, and the matter is to be further enquired into. The salaries of the warder establishment were raised during the year in order to secure a better class of recruit, the head warders being paid Rs. 16 per month, and warders Rs. 8 to Rs. 12 according to grade. An improvement in the work of the establishment is confidently expected from this improvement in the scale of pay.

SANITATION. 6.—SANITATION.

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces for the year 1903, and Table XIII-2—13 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1903-04.]

Chief sanitary works.

192. The following were among the chief sanitary works of importance undertaken during the year by the Public Works Department. A duplicate rising main was laid in Nagpur from the pumping reservoir to the service reservoir and a

new pump supplied for the pumping installation at a combined cost of Rs. 56,925. In Bhandara the water-works were extended so as to connect with the District Jail among other places, and a similar work was also commenced for the circuit-house and police lines, the whole involving an expenditure of Rs. 1,919. Two more iron tanks, each of 10,000 gallons capacity, were provided in extension of the water-works scheme at Harda. On these (including also the repair of some wells) the Municipality expended Rs. 24,548 and practically the whole town will now be supplied with water from the river. In Burhanpur 18 house connections were made at a cost of Rs. 1,308, and a drainage survey completed after an outlay of of Rs. 2,523.

Municipal sanitation.

193. As compared with the previous year considerable activity was shown in several of the head-quarters municipalities. In some 15 districts in the Central Provinces and Berar an expenditure of Rs. 500 and upwards was incurred in carrying out schemes for sanitary improvements. Burhanpur spent over Rs. 4,000 on repairs to water-works, roadways, and drains; Narsinghpur spent Rs. 1,175 on new drains; and Murwara town in the Jubbulpore District Rs. 1,000. In Jubbulpore itself but little could be done owing to the great expense incurred in connection with plague. Seoni, up to the end of 1903, had expended nearly Rs. 20,000 on a water-supply scheme. The progress of the work was, however, much retarded by delay in providing pipes. In Nagpur City 8,160 feet of drains were constructed, 7 small public latrines were built and Rs. 6,300 was spent in constructing slaughter-houses and markets. Raipur laid down 1,100 feet of masonry drains. In Wardha 3 new public latrines were built and a drainage scheme has been prepared, which it is estimated will involve an expenditure of about Rs. 30,000.

Income and expenditure on public health.

194. The total income of head-quarters municipalities during 1902-03 amounted in the Central Provinces to Rs. 10,63,449 or Rs. 32,045 less than in the previous year. Of this sum 35·76 per cent. was spent on sanitary works and 7·77 per cent. on medical relief. In Berar the corresponding total income amounted to Rs. 1,85,496, of which 33·84 per cent. was given to sanitary works. In Amraoti, Akola and Ellichpur 3·44 per cent. of the total income was spent on medical relief, State-supported hospitals doing the work of charitable dispensaries in the three other head-quarter towns.

Rural sanitation.

195. No new villages were brought under the provisions of the Village Sanitation Act during the year. Moreover, it is nowhere in force in Berar. The ordinary work, however, continued in 11 districts of the Central Provinces, some Rs. 5,350 being spent on conservancy and roads in five villages of the Saugor District, while Chhindwara and Chanda come next with an expenditure in each of over Rs. 2,000 devoted to the same objects. A special grant of Rs. 25,000 was made in 1903 for the improvement of the village water-supply in the Central Provinces, and some Rs. 7,000 were allotted to each of the Nagpur and Jubbulpore Divisions and Rs. 5,000 to each of the Chhattisgarh and Nerbudda Divisions. The details for each district were carefully worked out, practically no project being sanctioned in the absence of a substantial amount of local aid. Sanction has finally been given for the construction of 95 new wells, the repair of 80 existing wells, and the construction and improvement of 5 tanks. The total estimated cost is Rs. 45,034, of which Rs. 20,034 is derived from local contributions. At the close of 1903, however, the work had not been taken in hand as the abundant rainfall precluded the immediate commencement of works of this character.

7.—VACCINATION.

VACCINATION.

[Notes on Vaccination in the Central Provinces and Berar for 1903-04, and Table XVI-2—8 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1903-04.]

General record of vaccinations.

196. The total statistics for 1903-04 do not admit of comparison with those of previous years owing to the inclusion of the figures reported from Berar; while those from the Feudatory States refer to nine months only of the year under review in consequence of recent orders to the effect that all statistics having reference to vaccination should be obtained for the official and not for the calendar year. The separate figures, however, for the Central Provinces (including both Khalsa and Feudatory States) are 446,411 primary and 76,198 re-vaccination cases, the percentage of success with the former being 98·65, and with the latter 87·74. Each vaccinator performed on an average 1,815 operations.

VACCINATION.

In Berar 181,401 primary vaccinations and 22,295 re-vaccinations were performed, the percentages of success being respectively 97·92 and 15·60. The average number of vaccinations performed by each operator was 3,255. As compared with 1902-03, twelve districts show increases in primary vaccination attributable no doubt to the high birth-rate of 1902. Five districts of Berar record a decrease which is explained partly by plague and partly by the breakdown of the Lymph Depôt at Amraoti. It is satisfactory to find that the percentage of successful cases of primary vaccination was very high; the districts which gave poor results last year showing an improvement this. There is a great difference in the results reported for re-vaccination in the Central Provinces and Berar. The percentage of success claimed in the Central Provinces is generally admitted to be improbable, but no explanation has as yet been given of the differences.

Vaccination in Municipalities.

197. During the year no new town either in Berar or in the Central Provinces came under the operation of the Vaccination Act, and even in the municipalities, where the Act was already in force, vaccination work was somewhat backward, only 17,769 children under one year of age being treated out of an available total of 21,422. No less than 13 towns are mentioned in which a want of energy was displayed by the vaccinating staff.

Mortality from small-pox.

198. The mortality from small-pox was less than in the three preceding years. The proportion *per mille* of the population in the Central Provinces protected by vaccination was 39·24, a slight increase as compared with the year before, while in Berar the proportion was 36·58 or 6·12 less than in the previous year.

Lymph.

199. The numbers vaccinated with each kind of lymph and the percentage of successes obtained with each were as follows:—With fresh calf lymph 160,190 persons, of which 95·5 per cent. were treated successfully; with glycerinated calf lymph 209,929, showing the same percentage of success; 32,669 were vaccinated with human lymph and 1,076 with lanolinated lymph, the percentages of success being respectively 96·7 and 92·6. It has now been finally decided that the best method is to have the glycerinated lymph for the whole district prepared at the head-quarters only, and this system is now to be introduced generally. For Berar lanolinated lymph is prepared at the Amraoti Paste Depôt and is supplied to all vaccinators in the province.

Expenditure.

200. The total cost of operations in the Central Provinces was Rs. 42,638, or Rs. 476 more than in 1902-03. The average cost of each successful case was 1 anna 10 pies as in the previous year. In Berar the average cost rose from 2 annas and 5 pies in 1902-03 to 2 annas and 9 pies in 1903-04, the total expenditure being Rs. 17,325.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

1.—GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

201. An account of this subject will be found at pages 118 to 124 of the Report on the administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1901-02 and also at pages 80 to 83 of the Report on the administration of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts for the same year.

2.—EDUCATION.

EDUCATION.

[Report on the state and progress of Education in the Central Provinces for the year 1903-04, and Table X-1, 2, 3-I, 3-J, 4-I, 4-J, 5-D, 5-E, 6-J, 6-K, 7-J, 7-K, 8 I, 8-J, 9-E, 9-F, 10-I, 10-J and Table XI of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1903-04.]

Number of scholars.

202. The prevalence of plague over the greater part of the Central Provinces and Berar, and to a less extent the local scarcity which existed early in the year in certain portions of the Central Provinces were, both of them, factors which had considerable influence in checking educational progress. It is satisfactory, therefore, to find that in spite of these obstacles a marked advance can be recorded as a result of the year's work. The total number of scholars amounted at the end of March 1904 to 219,931 or some 7,700 more than in the previous year, and in no fewer than 16 out of 24 districts was there an increase in the proportion of scholars to children of school-going age. It is only necessary to name the districts in which this proportion decreased—Jubbulpore, Narsinghpur, Nimar, Nagpur, Bhandara, Amraoti, Ellichpur and Basim—to make it apparent that it was plague alone which prevented a very much larger attendance of children than that which was recorded; and even as it is the proportion for the province as a whole does show an increase which, however small in itself, is remarkable under the circumstances. There was a slight decrease in the number of Native Christian and Muhammadan children who were sent to school, and a slightly greater decrease in the case of children, presumably of low caste, who are classified as "Others." The number of non-Brahmin Hindu children, however, rose by over 5,000 and more than counterbalanced the poor attendance of the other classes, and in the absence of any other explanation, these variations may safely be attributed to differences in classification. The absence of many Muhammadan children would be the direct consequence of plague, which during the past year was particularly rife among this section of the people.

Features of the year's work.

203. Several important innovations were made during the year. The most important was the addition of Berar to the field to be administered by the Director of Public Instruction in the Central Provinces. Steps are being taken to assimilate the Berar system to that of the Central Provinces, and the introduction of two important changes into Berar—which were among those recommended by the Education Conference at Simla—were under consideration during the year, *viz.* (1) the provincialization of girls' schools and (2) the abolition of the result-grant system, together with the conversion of Rural schools into Board schools. Among other minor changes may be mentioned an increase of pay granted to village schoolmasters, the extension of the High School course from two to three years, and an increase in the number and value of Arts Scholarships.

Expenditure on Education.

204. The total expenditure on education in British Territory in the year under review was Rs. 17,53,139 as compared with Rs. 17,36,659 in the previous year. Of this 35·9 per cent. was contributed from Provincial Funds and 37·5 per cent. from District Funds. Under District Funds was included, however, provincial

contributions amounting to more than two lakhs. These percentages are therefore misleading—the provincial share of the expenditure as a matter of fact considerably exceeding that of District Funds. Municipalities contributed 6·5 per cent. towards the expenditure, 9·4 per cent. was obtained from fees, and 10·9 per cent. from other sources. It would be of no value to compare the percentages of this year's outlay on various educational objects with those of 1902-03. The changes in the figures for 1903-04 are to a great extent the mere result of the inclusion of the Berar accounts, and do not represent any real variation in the distribution of expenditure. The total expenditure on scholarships payable from Provincial Funds was Rs. 15,652; from District Council Funds Rs. 11,838; and from Endowment Funds Rs. 3,145. In Berar, Provincial Funds contributed Rs. 9,765 towards this object and Municipal Funds Rs. 158. The average cost of educating pupils in Arts Colleges was Rs. 221·1, in Secondary Schools Rs. 10·1, and in Primary Schools Rs. 4·9 per head.

University Education.

205. There are three Colleges in the Central Provinces, namely, the Government College in Jubbulpore and the Hislop and Morris aided Colleges in Nagpur, and none in Berar. In March of 1904 there were 266 scholars enrolled at these colleges, of whom an average of 237 attended daily. Fee collections amounted in all to Rs. 13,608 during 1903-04 as against Rs. 12,988 in the previous year, but the average cost per pupil increased from Rs. 88-10-3 to Rs. 101-4-4. In Jubbulpore the students fell in number from 76 to 70 owing to the ill-success of the schools at the Entrance and School Final Examinations. However, 25 passed the F. A. Examination as against 5 in the previous year, a result which was extremely satisfactory. The Hislop College in Nagpur was closed for more than three months on account of plague, and the results of the year's work were therefore not as good as usual. So too with the Morris College, plague was responsible for the comparatively poor results obtained.

Secondary Education.

206. Secondary Schools in British Territory in the Central Provinces increased from 202 to 206, while the number of scholars rose from 1,073 to 1,118 in High Schools and fell to 5,691 from 6,349 in Anglo-Vernacular Middle Schools. Vernacular Middle Schools showed an increase of 192 pupils. In Berar the attendance of pupils was generally worse than in the previous year in spite of the opening of an additional Anglo-Vernacular Middle School. In Native States, on the other hand, where plague was practically unknown, the number of pupils in Secondary Schools increased by 40, although one Anglo-Vernacular School at Kashipur in the Kalahandi State was closed. It may be noted here that in this year the primary departments of Vernacular Middle Schools, hitherto shown separately as Primary Schools, were treated as one with the Vernacular Middle Schools and this change in classification has resulted in a large nominal decrease in the number of Primary Schools and a corresponding nominal increase in the number of pupils attending Vernacular Middle Schools. However, in drawing comparison between this year and last, only *actual* differences have been taken into account, so that, for example, although the pupils in Vernacular Middle Schools increased according to the returns by 14,590, only the actual increase of 192 has been considered.

Primary Education.

207. The number of Primary Schools in British Territory, according to the new classification just referred to, decreased by 95, but in reality they increased by 22, and gave instruction to 4,737 more pupils than in the previous year. In Berar, however, where plague was more prevalent, there was an actual decrease by 85 in the number of schools with a decrease of 7,079 in the number of scholars. But primary education is nevertheless making steady progress, as the demand for education increases with the revival of good times. Rural schools were not during the year very much affected by the plague except in a few places, and work has been steadily proceeded with along the lines laid down—the special subjects of the rural curriculum gaining increased popularity. The pay of the head masters in the worst-paid schools was increased, and some small experimental farms were started in connection with several school gardens. Moreover, the District Councils are trying their best to open more Primary Schools, and it is only the want of the necessary funds which prevents them from doing much more in this direction.

208. There are five Government institutions in the Central Provinces for the training of teachers—two in Jubbulpore, two in Nagpur and one in Raipur. The Training Institution at Jubbulpore has two departments—a primary and a secondary. The primary department trains students for employment in Vernacular Schools, while the secondary is intended to train teachers for employment in Colleges and in High and Anglo-Vernacular Schools. There are also Male Normal Schools in Nagpur and Raipur and two Female Normal Schools in addition to these—one in Jubbulpore and another, newly started, in Nagpur; besides which there is a Training School at Akola in Berar which contains a Female Training class. The year's work presented no unusual features as far as these institutions were concerned. The number on the rolls increased from 223 to 298 and the average daily attendance from 210 to 221, while the individual cost of each pupil rose to Rs. 175-5-10 from Rs. 154-11-9, the figure for the previous year. Forty-eight candidates passed the Teacher's Certificate Examination, but much has yet to be done before it is possible to adequately meet the ever-increasing demand for trained teachers. **Training Schools.**

209. Besides the Agricultural School at Nagpur with its malguzari class and normal agricultural class, to which a reference was made in the section on agriculture in Chapter IV, there are several institutions devoted to technical education. In the Reformatory School at Jubbulpore 125 pupils received instruction during the year in various practical trades, and underwent an examination in their particular branch of study. The Industrial School at Amraoti, which like the Reformatory School is a Government institution, also gave instruction in tailoring; carpentry and blacksmith's work to the few pupils who attended, but plague greatly interfered with the work. Besides these, the Industrial School attached to the Saint Francis de Sales School, Nagpur, had 60 pupils learning different trades, and there were also 67 girls in the industrial department of the Convent School, Nagpur. The law classes at Jubbulpore and Nagpur continued in existence during the year, but will be abolished when the Central Law College at Nagpur is opened—proposals for which are already before the Government of India. Lastly, reference has to be made to the Engineering School in Jubbulpore. There was a decline in the number enrolled and in the average daily attendance, but the number of applications for admission show that this continues to be one of the most popular institutions in the Central Provinces. Eighteen candidates from this school succeeded in passing their final examination. **Technical Education.**

210. Female education made considerable strides. Board girls' schools were provincialized in the Central Provinces during the year under report, and seven new schools were opened with the sanction of the Local Government. The number of pupils increased from 8,464 to 8,885 and the average daily attendance from 5,696 to 5,792. In Native States too the daily attendance rose from 323 to 409, and it is only in Berar that a fall is recorded, in consequence of plague, from 1,520 to 1,292. Several girls' schools managed by Missionary Societies were also well reported on; and among these, the American Mission Girls' School at Bilaspur showed to the best advantage, being particularly successful at the Teachers' Certificate Examination. **Female Education.**

211. It is clear then that in spite of many difficulties very general progress was made during the year. In particular the attention of the Department was directed to a variety of important schemes, to the re-organization of the Morris College, to the establishment of the new Victoria Technical Institute in Nagpur, and to the erection of new educational buildings in Jubbulpore. It is pleasing to learn that the efforts of the officers of the Department were well supported by local bodies and others with whom they came in contact. **General.**

3.—LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

[Table XII-1 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1903-04.]

212. Less literary activity than usual was displayed by educated natives in 1903-04. Altogether, in Berar and the Central Provinces, only 47 works were published. Ten of these works were of a religious character, 13 were simply educational, while 10 others were poetic works of a non-religious kind. Two dramas and 3 works of fiction were among the publications of the year, but none of the books were of any special interest. **Publications.**

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

The Vernacular Press.

213. Of the 9 newspapers of the Central Provinces, to which a reference was made in last year's report, two, the *Tikakar* and the *Chhattisgarh Mitra*, are no longer issued. To the remaining 7 have, this year, to be added the names of the *Nyaya Ratan*, *Jubbulpore Times*, *Arya Sewak* and *Prabhat*, which are published in the Central Provinces; and the *Berar Samachar*, the *Shudha Warhadi*, *Sudarshan*, *Pramod Sindhu*, *Vaidarbha*, *Huri Kisan* and *Prabhat*, which are published in Berar, and have therefore to be included in the present review. None of these papers has a large circulation or can be regarded as having any influence over public opinion. They are only read by a small number of educated persons, and are insignificant both in quantity and quality, consisting in some cases of little more than advertisements and reprints of municipal notices.

Printing Presses.

214. There are in all 42 printing presses, of which 26 are in the Central Provinces and 16 in Berar.

4.—LITERARY SOCIETIES.

LITERARY SOCIETIES.

215. During the year under report there were 55 literary societies in the Central Provinces and 34 in Berar. The great majority of these societies are really nothing more than subscription libraries, but some have been started in the Central Provinces with more ambitious objects. Social amusement, political or religious discussion, and even public speaking, are mentioned as the objects of some of these societies. A few others again are mere clubs formed for the purpose of playing out-door games. The great majority, however, apart from those which are mere libraries, are educational in character. All these societies are of course supported by subscriptions from members. In the case, however, of 27 societies money is also contributed from Municipal or District Funds, where it appears that the society is doing good work in stimulating people to read, or in encouraging some other form of education.

5.—ARTS AND SCIENCES.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

[Report on the Department of Agriculture, Central Provinces, for the year ending March 31st, 1904.]

Museums.

216. The only museums under Government management are the Provincial museum at Nagpur and the local one at Raipur. At the former the daily average of visitors has fallen from 283 to 271, the decrease being attributed to the prevalence of plague, which visited Nagpur with even greater severity than in the year before. During the year Mr. Cousens, Superintendent of the Archæological Survey for Bombay and Berar, inspected the museum and made suggestions regarding the transfer of some of the exhibits to the new Victoria Technical Institute. Few additions were made during the year. The chief improvement consisted in the preparation of new cases for the arrangement of exhibits. The museum still contains a good many decayed and useless exhibits, and it is proposed to thoroughly overhaul the specimens when those belonging to the economic, agricultural, geological and technical branches have been removed to the Victoria Institute. At present the large hall is almost entirely devoted to the economic, agricultural and geological specimens which are to be removed. At Raipur the number of visitors to the museum fell from 134,254 to 116,956. Very few contributions were received and nothing was spent on the purchase of specimens. The year opened with a balance of Rs. 347 and closed with one of Rs. 605. The Raipur Municipal Committee increased its contribution from Rs. 150 to Rs. 200. There are no museums in Berar.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

[For further information see Archæological Survey of India (New Series), Volume XIX.]

ARCHÆOLOGY.

217. It was noticed in last year's Administration Report that enquiries were being made in order to ascertain how far the list of antiquarian remains in these provinces given in Volume XIX of the Archæological Survey of India required revision, and what ancient monuments and buildings should be maintained at Government expense. In consequence of these enquiries the Superintendent of the Archæological Survey for the Bombay Circle selected certain buildings, chiefly mosques and temples, which he considered to be of sufficient antiquarian interest to justify their preservation at the public expense; and accordingly a practical beginning was made in three districts of the Central Provinces and in two districts of Berar. In the Nimar District, a sum of Rs. 112 was devoted to the repair of portions of the Jama Masjid or chief mosque in Burhanpur, and Rs. 320 was expended in enclosing and clearing of brushwood the Temple of Sidheshwar at Mandhata, while in the Betul District, parts of the fallen dome and outer parapet wall of the temple at Bhainsdehi were rebuilt at a cost of Rs. 210. In the Jubbulpore District, petty repairs costing Rs. 150 were carried through during the year. An important scheme was also formed for restoring the temple at Bheraghat, known to Europeans as the Marble Rocks, and an estimate was framed which would involve an outlay of Rs. 1,051. The main expenditure of the year was incurred in Berar, where as much as Rs. 8,947 was spent in the Buldana District in the restoration of temples at Lowar, Mehkar, Rohinkhed, Sategaon, Sakegaon and Dhotra. Over Rs. 700 was also spent in restoring temples and preserving some Jain caves at Pathur in the Akola District. The total expenditure of the year was Rs. 10,576-15-11.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION.

1.—ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION.

Ecclesiastical.

218-X. The area of the new Diocese of Nagpur has been recently extended beyond its original limits, and it now includes the whole of Ajmer-Merwara and Nimach in Central India in addition to those areas which were originally allotted to it.

STATIONERY.

2.—STATIONERY.

219. The cost of stationery used in the offices of the Central Provinces has again increased this year from Rs. 63,212 in 1902-03 to Rs. 95,873 in 1903-04. This increase is distributed among several offices. There is an increase of Rs. 5,000 in the Secretariat. offices, of Rs. 3,000 in the Police Department, of Rs. 3,000 in the Jail Department, Rs. 2,000 in the Education Department and Rs. 5,000 in the Settlement and Agriculture Department. In each of these cases the increase must be attributed to additional consumption consequent on the amalgamation of the Berar head offices with those of the Central Provinces. The new Ecclesiastical Department formed during the year 1903-04 was also responsible for about Rs. 1,000 worth of stationery. It may be added that the cost of type-writers—many of which were indented for by various offices—is also included under the head of stationery. The expenditure on stationery supplied to printing presses was the same as that of the previous year (Rs. 40,000).

GENERAL.

3.—GENERAL—MISCELLANEOUS.

The registration of rainfall.

220. During the year four new rain-gauge stations were established. The number maintained in the Central Provinces was 91, of which 12 are observatories under the Meteorological Department. Of the remaining 79, 13 are under the management of the Medical Department, 16 are maintained by Feudatory States, while the rest are in charge of subordinate Police or Revenue officers. The number of rain-gauge stations maintained in Berar was 44. No rain-gauge station was established nor any abolished during the year. There has been no change in the situation of any gauge, and the mode of registering and reporting the rainfall continued the same.

Co-operation with the Crytogamic Botanist and the Agricultural Chemist to the Government of India.

221. Specimens of a number of sugarcane diseases were forwarded from districts, where the cane cultivation is most important, to the Cryptogamic Botanist to the Government of India. The result of his investigations is not yet known. Samples of the oil-seeds of the Central Provinces were sent to the Agricultural Chemist to the Government of India for analysis. His report on linseed and safflower has been received. It appears that on the whole the linseed of the Central Provinces is equal to that of any other province, that of Bombay and the United Provinces being equally good, and the produce of other provinces of lower quality. Safflower is of poor quality. It is an oil for which there is very little demand in the Central Provinces.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Co-operation with the Reporter on Economic Products.

222. At the request of the Reporter on Economic Products the following collections were made and enquiries undertaken:—

(*a*) A collection of yams occurring in the districts of the Central Provinces and Berar was made and sent to him for examination. His report is not yet received.

(*b*) An enquiry was made into the identity, uses and habitat of the plant referred to in the Central Provinces Monograph on Textile Industry as Kandri. The Reporter on Economic Products has not yet determined the name of the plant; it is being cultivated in the Sibpur gardens and will be identified on flowering.

(*c*) The collection of botanical specimens of gums was continued and a number of specimens was sent to the Reporter on Economic Products.

(*d*) Specimens of varieties of juar grown in Berar were sent for the Economic Museum at Calcutta in connection with the general enquiry into this crop now proceeding.

(*e*) Four species of bees were collected in Hoshangabad and sent to the Reporter on Economic Products.

Special enquiries.

223. Tanning and working in leather was the subject this year of the Annual Industrial Report, and the chief points emphasised were the poverty of the workers, the poor quality of the work, and the decay of the local industry in consequence of the foreign demand for raw hides.

Secretariat Press, Nagpur :—T. P. R., 20-12-04—450.

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES & BERAR

FOR THE YEAR

1904-05.

Agents for the sale of Books published by the Central Provinces Administration.

IN ENGLAND.

E. A. ARNOLD, 41 & 43, Maddox Street, Bond Street, W., London.

CONSTABLE & CO., 16, James Street, Haymarket, W., London.

P. S. KING & SON, 9, Bridge Street, Westminster, S. W., London.

KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH, TRÜBNER & CO., Charing Cross Road, W C., London.

B. QUARITCH, 15, Piccadilly, W., London.

DEIGHTON BELL & CO., Cambridge.

B. H. BLACKWELL, 50 and 51, Broad Street, Oxford.

HENRY S. KING & CO., 65, Cornhill, E. C.

ON THE CONTINENT.

FRIEDLÄNDER & SOHN, 11, Carlstrasse, Berlin.

OTTO HARRASSOWITZ, Leipzig.

KARL W. HIERSEMANN, Leipzig.

ERNEST LEROUX, 28, Rue Bonaparte, Paris.

MARTINUS NIJHOFF, The Hague.

RUDOLF HAUPT, Halle-a-S., Germany.

IN INDIA AND THE COLONIES.

THACKER, SPINK & Co., Calcutta and Simla.

A. J. COMBRIDGE & CO., Bombay and Madras.

NEWMAN & CO., Calcutta.

THACKER & CO., LD., Bombay.

HIGGINBOTHAM & CO., Madras.

RAI SAHIB M. GULAB SINGH & SON, Lahore.

SUPERINTENDENT, AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSION PRESS, Rangoon.

V. KALYANARAM IYER & CO., Madras.

D. B. TARAPOREVALA, SONS & CO., Bombay.

G. A. NATESAN & CO., Madras.

RADHABAI ATMARAM SAGOON, Bombay.

MANAGER, GENERAL BOOK DEPÔT, Nagpur and Jubbulpore.

R. CAMBRAY & CO., Calcutta.

S. K. LAHIRI & CO., Calcutta.

N. B. MATHUR, SUPERINTENDENT, NAZAIR KANUN HIND PRESS, Allahabad.

SUNDER PANDURANG, 25 Kalkadevi Road, Bombay.

A. M. & J. FERGUSON, Booksellers, Ceylon.

CENTRAL PROVINCES

Scale 1 Inch = 80 Miles or $\frac{1}{5\,068\,800}$.

100 50 0 100

78° 82°

24° 20°

CENTRAL INDIA AGENCY

BERAR

CENTRAL PROVINCES

BENGAL

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

HYDERABAD

MADRAS PRESIDENCY

BAY OF BENGAL

U. PROVINCES

Goona · Lalitpur · Tehri · Byáwar · Nagod · Sohágpur · Rewah · Sone R.

Narsinghgarh · Sangor · Damoh · Kanjia

Ujjain · BHOPAL · Dewás · Hoshangábad · Narmadda R. · Narsinghpur · Pirsingpur · Sohágpur Ry. · Dindori · Multán · Lohardaga · Ranchi

INDORE · Mhow · Mortakka · Sohágpur · Mándla · Amarkantak · Bengal Nagpur Ry.

Khandwa · Barwáni · Chhindwara · Kawarda · Bilaspur · Korba · Ráwarh · Lainghá

Asírgarh · Burhánpur · Chikalda · Ellichpur · Multái · Balaghat · Gondia · Sáihatpur

Kamptee · NAGPUR · Bhandara · Arjuni · Raipur · Drug · Bargarh

Amraoti · Wardha · Pránhita R. · Mahánadi R. · Anjal

Khándesh · Akola · Brahmapuri · Dumduma · Sámpur

Melkapur · Básim · Yeotmál · Wardha R. · Warora · Wainganga R. · Kanker · Nawagarh · Bhimdesar

Jalna · Máhur · Ballarpur · Purlakot · Raigarh · Umarkot · Junagarh

Godávari R. · Nánded · Ahiri · Bastar · Gaulan

Kandhár · Penganga R. · Indravati R. · Jugdalpur · Chintalnar · Kolab R. · Bhopalpatnam · Dantawara · Jeypore

Manjira R. · Kauldi · Yelgandal · Kudakamberu · Viziangram · Chicacole · Calingapatam

Sáre · Sholáipur · Nizam's Ry. · Warangal · Sillári Ry. · Godávari R. · Vizagapatam

Bolarum · Bhongir · Secunderabad · Yellandu · Dornakal · Gulbarga · HYDERABAD · Khamamet · Tuni

Reference.

Nimár..... .....

Reg No.608, Secy., Ch. Commr., C. P.—Nov. 02—330.+25

No. 817 Govt C.,P.,Genl Dept—Oct. 04—42

With additions to Sep^t 1905

Litho., S. I. O., Calcutta.

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ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

FOR

THE YEAR 1904-05.

PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

The Administration.

The Hon'ble Sir F. S. P. LELY, C. S. I., K. C. I. E., held charge of the Province as Chief Commissioner throughout the year.

Berar and the Central Provinces.

2. The province of Berar was amalgamated with the Central Provinces in the month of October 1903, and is now administered as one of the five Divisions under the control of the Chief Commissioner. It differs widely from the larger province in many important respects. Although the total area of Berar is less than one-sixth of the area of the Central Provinces and its population is only about $2\frac{3}{4}$ millions as compared with $10\frac{1}{2}$ millions, the amounts of land revenue yielded by the two provinces are almost the same. There is also a divergence in land tenure, as cultivators in Berar hold their land directly from Government on what is known as the "ryotwari" system, while in the Central Provinces the prevailing tenure is what is usually known as "zamindari", and the large majority of agriculturists hold their land, in various degrees of tenant right, from the "malguzar" or village landlord, who collects the rents himself and is responsible to Government for the payment of the land revenue assessed on each village. The greater portion of Berar consists of an extensive undulating plain of rich black soil, well suited to the growth of cotton and juar, and nearly the whole of its area is available for cultivation, whereas the Central Provinces contain wide stretches of hill and jungle, and much of the soil in the level tracts is of a lighter kind, adapted only to the growth of rice or the smaller millets, the chief exceptions being the wheat country of the Nerbudda Valley and the western districts of the Nagpur Division which border on the Berar country and closely resemble it in many important respects.

Features of the year.

3. The monsoon of 1904 was irregular, and the rainfall over the larger portion of the Province proved exceptionally fitful and ill-distributed. The rice crop of the Wainganga Valley proved very disappointing, and the juar crop towards the south and centre of the Provinces also suffered to some extent from the capricious nature of the season. The damage done, however, was not very widespread, and liberal suspensions and remissions of revenue were readily given wherever the necessity for them was apparent. The most notable agricultural features of the year were the rapid extension of cotton cultivation in the southern districts in Berar and round Nagpur, and the excellent outturn of the crop, which

surpassed all previous records in spite of the erratic character of the monsoon rains. The rice tracts of the Chhattisgarh country, so sorely tried of late years, fortunately enjoyed a fairly normal rainfall, and both the autumn and the spring crops gave an abundant yield. The marked recovery exhibited in this portion of the Province is especially gratifying in view of the previous distress occasioned by a rapid succession of years of scarcity and famine. It may fairly be said that the period now under review has been one of steadily returning prosperity all over the Province. Cultivation and trade have expanded, the value of land and the wages of labour have risen, and agricultural credit stands higher now than has been the case for many years past.

Relations with Feudatory States.

4. The Feudatory States enjoyed fairly satisfactory crops in spite of the deficiency in the rainfall, and in the past year the improvement in the material condition of the people has continued. Prices remained low, and there was a keen demand for agricultural labour. Trade was good generally and excise receipts show an increase. The general prosperity is reflected by a marked diminution in crime, which reduced the convict jail population to 20 per cent. below the average. Education has made real progress throughout the year, especially among the poorer low-caste classes. The financial position of all the States is sound and their economic progress has been fully maintained. The year was a healthy one and plague, except for one unimportant outbreak, was conspicuous only by its absence. There was nothing to mar the record of the year, and the relations between the various Feudatory Chiefs and the officers of Government have been most cordial. The late Raja of Bamra, Sir Sudhal Deo, K. C. I. E., has been succeeded by his son Satchida Nand Tikait, who was formally installed during the year.

The condition of the people.

5. In spite of the inadequate rainfall experienced over the greater portion of the Provinces, the improvement in the economic condition of the people manifested in the two preceding years was fully maintained. Except in the rice-growing tracts of the Wainganga Valley, where the crop reaped was very disappointing, the harvests of the year were only slightly below the normal level, and the check experienced was not sufficient to arrest progress in any appreciable degree. In the south of the Provinces the demand for labour of all kinds was unusually great and wages rose considerably. The birth-rate was the highest recorded for many years, while the death-rate was below the decennial average, in spite of the continued presence of plague in many of the larger towns. The cultivated area has again expanded and thriving trade brought employment and profit to all classes of the community. Negative evidence of the progress of material prosperity is afforded by the statistics of crime, which show that the low figures recorded in the previous year have not appreciably advanced.

Realization of the revenue.

6. The deficiency in the rainfall of 1904 did not affect the realization of the Provincial land revenue to any great extent. A sum of rather more than 1¼ lakhs was remitted in the rice districts of the Wainganga country and about a quarter of a lakh was also suspended. A further sum of a quarter of a lakh was remitted in some of the northern districts, where a portion of the spring crops was seriously damaged by hail. The realizable balance was collected practically in full and considerable progress was also made with the collection of outstanding arrears. Over four-fifths of the amount realized was paid in without resort to any form of coercion whatever, and such pressure as was found necessary was generally of the lightest possible character. Collections of outstandings under the Government loan account were also satisfactory, and the punctuality

observed by agricultural debtors in the repayment of their loans affords a satisfactory indication of their general condition.

Surveys.

7. The traverse survey of 111 lineal miles was completed by the Imperial Survey Department, and a supplementary topographical survey of 2,719 square miles was also carried out. The topographical maps of both Berar and the Central Provinces are as a rule much out of date, and arrangements are being made by the Imperial Department for their revision.

Settlements.

8. Settlement operations were in progress in the districts of Wun, Mandla, Chanda, Sambalpur and in the ryotwari villages of the Nimar, Betul and Chhindwara Districts. Field operations in Chanda have now been completed and considerable progress was made in Sambalpur and Mandla. The work in Betul, Nimar and Chhindwara was brought to a conclusion. A commencement was made with the work of re-settling the Bilaspur District and the greater part of the Raipur khalsa, but the operations only began in the last quarter of the year. Proposals for the re-settlement of the Wun, Kelapur and Yeotmal Taluqs have been forwarded for the orders of the Government of India.

Land records.

9. The Land Record staff in the Central Provinces was strengthened by the appointment of Assistant Superintendents of Land Records in six districts, and a new Inspector and 22 additional Patwaris were sanctioned for the Chhindwara jagirs. The most important work of the year took place in Berar, where considerable progress has been made with the re-organization of the inspecting staff. The work and conduct of the subordinate members of the staff has been satisfactory, and the checking of land records on the part of Inspectors and Superintendents shows general improvement.

Waste lands.

10. An area of 61,362 acres of waste land was excised from the Government forests and allotted for cultivation under the ryotwari tenure. The areas actually allotted during the year carry a revenue assessment of Rs. 13,141. The demand for land was particularly keen in the districts of Nimar, Chanda, Balaghat and Seoni. The total area now under cultivation in these ryotwari tracts amounts to 763,487 acres with an assessment of Rs. 2,14,307.

Estates under Court of Wards.

11. The policy which has been pursued during the last few years of relieving the Court of Wards of all hopelessly encumbered estates was again followed, and the total number of estates under management has been reduced to 99. Particular attention has been paid to the state of the rental accounts, and collections were made nearly in full. The income from forests also showed a satisfactory increase. The majority of these estates were taken under the Court on account of their indebtedness, and their restoration to a state of solvency has been retarded by consecutive years of famine and scarcity. The strict economy which has to be practised leaves but little capital available for improvements, but excellent progress has been made towards the extinction of the liabilities of the various estates. During the year Rs. 2,17,000 was paid out of current income towards liquidation of debt, and with the relinquishment of estates which it was found impossible to extricate, the net indebtedness has sunk to a little over nine and a half lakhs of rupees.

The Revenue and Rent-paying classes.

12. The large majority of the cultivating class enjoyed a more prosperous season than the actual crop outturns would seem to indicate, and some advance in their material welfare is apparent on all sides. Rents were generally collected without trouble, and landlords were easily able to meet the current revenue demand. The value of agricultural land has gone up, and

while there has been a marked decrease in the number of land transfers, it is significant that the majority of sales actually effected were in favour of agriculturists. The total sum of tenant indebtedness seems to have decreased during the last few years, and comparatively few tenants found it necessary to borrow Government "taccavi" for the purchase of seed-grain. The prosperity of the landholding classes is further indicated by an increase in the cropped area and in agricultural livestock. The trade returns show an increase in the exports of food-grain, coupled with a corresponding increase of imported wares. Taken as a body, the tillers of the soil and the small landlords are at present better off than they have been for the past ten years.

Police.

13. The favourable circumstances prevailing throughout the year and the low level of prices offered no incentive to crime, and the number of offences reported to the Police is one of the lowest records ever attained in the Central Provinces. There was a decrease in the number of murders, while cases of serious dacoity fell to the unusually low figure of 9 in the Central Provinces. In Berar this class of offence showed an increase. Although in several districts detection was poor, the Police were able to effectively break up some notorious bands, and much information has been gained as to the criminals who habitually commit dacoity, which should help the Police in dealing with these gangs in future. The preventive work of the Police was generally good, and the measures taken to keep the bands of dacoits in the various adjacent Native States from extending their operations into British territory were remarkably successful. The Police work of the year was satisfactory; discipline was good and the punishment returns light, while rewards for good work were freely bestowed. The recruitment of the Police force is still a matter of difficulty, but it is to be hoped that the various important reforms which are to be introduced in accordance with the recommendations of the Police Commission will afford a satisfactory solution of the question.

Criminal Justice.

14. The number of cases brought before the Criminal Courts shows a slight increase on the very low number in the previous year, but the increase was chiefly in petty crime, such as charges of ordinary hurt and assault. On the other hand, theft cases and offences against property showed a decline. The work of the Sessions Courts, both in the Central Provinces and in Berar, was well done, and there was a slight improvement in the punctuality of the disposal of criminal work in the Subordinate Courts. The number of death sentences confirmed fell from 18 to 15, as a natural consequence of a decline in the number of murder cases.

Prison.

15. The total number of convicts admitted to jail shows only a slight increase over the figure for 1903, which was the lowest that has ever been known in these Provinces. The daily average population fell by 6 per cent., and the number of persons imprisoned at the close of the year was lower than has been recorded during the last twenty years. There was no overcrowding, the general health of convicts was good, and the death-rate was considerably below that recorded among the free population. Very few juvenile offenders were sent to prison. Marked improvement was displayed in the economic management of the jails, and the sale of prison manufactures yielded an increase of 38 per cent. as compared with the earnings of the preceding year. Jail discipline was efficient and the number of punishments generally declined, though in one jail rigid measures were found necessary in order to raise the standard of discipline to the required level. There was an increase in the cost of jail administration

consequent on the raising of the pay of the subordinate staff. The general condition of jail administration has shown a distinct advance and has fully justified the separation of the two departments of Prisons and Police, which, up till two years ago, were administered by a single controlling officer.

Civil Justice.

16. A considerable increase took place in the civil litigation of the Central Provinces, which is largely due to the great number of suits of small value instituted during the year. The appellate and revisional work of the Judicial Commissioner's Court was particularly heavy, and it has been found necessary to appoint an Additional Judicial Commissioner. Considerable progress has been effected in the organization of a separate staff for civil judicial work in the Central Provinces, and miscellaneous duties have, as far as possible, been transferred to the executive side of the administration. Many sweeping reforms are required in Berar, where during many years the disposal of civil work has been hampered by the executive duties which had to be shared by all officers. Since the close of the year the Executive and Judicial branches of the Provincial Service have been completely separated and the subordinate Civil Courts of Berar have been strengthened. It is hoped that the revised arrangements will effect a considerable improvement in the disposal of civil litigation.

Registration.

17. A marked rise is apparent in the number of compulsory registrations effected during the year, both in the Central Provinces and in Berar. The statistics for the period under review give evidence of the steady increase which is taking place in the value of land, and a general improvement of credit and security is indicated by the rapid progress of mortgage transactions as compared with perpetual leases and sales. In pursuance of the policy of relieving the civil judiciary of extraneous work, the office of District Registrar has been transferred from Civil Judges to Deputy Commissioners.

Municipal Administration.

18. There are 58 Municipalities in the Central Provinces and Berar and the general results of their administration were satisfactory. The net municipal income for the Provinces increased by Rs. 1,87,000, and the expenditure on normal current requirements increased by three-quarters of a lakh. The general balance at the close of the year was over 7 lakhs. Municipal receipts increased under almost every head, as a result of a prosperous year and flourishing trade, and the large increase in octroi receipts in every town levying this tax is largely due to the recent revision of the octroi schedules. Four rising towns have now been constituted as notified areas under the Municipal Act, but it was not found possible to bring the modified municipal constitution into effect in any of them before the close of the year. No work of special importance was undertaken in any Municipality during the year. The expenditure on special measures in connection with plague was much less than in the previous year, and additional money was thus available to meet the increasing demands on account of education, sanitation and hospitals. The financial position of all municipal towns is sound, and the relations existing between Municipal Committees and the officers of Government have been excellent.

District Councils and Local Boards.

19. No change has taken place in the number of District Councils and Local Boards in the Central Provinces and Berar. The general income of these bodies has increased by over two lakhs of rupees, a result which is to be attributed to the favourable agricultural and commercial conditions prevailing during the year. The general incidence of taxation per head of population has remained unchanged in the Central Provinces and has slightly fallen in Berar. The total expenditure

of all Boards has advanced almost in proportion to the rise in the income, and the increase is distributed over all the chief objects of the Boards' attention. All local bodies closed the year in a solvent financial position except one, the income of which was affected by the revenue remissions rendered necessary by the bad seasons experienced locally during recent years.

The Agricultural Department.

20. The work of the Agricultural Department in its three main branches of education, experiment and demonstration, developed steadily along the lines laid down in the preceding year. The Department in these Provinces has always pursued an energetic and practical policy, and has done much to disseminate useful information and to maintain the interest of the more enlightened members of the community in the improvement of agricultural methods. Hitherto its operations have been hampered by want of funds and by the fact that the officer in charge had numerous other duties of importance to perform and was unaided by expert advice. Since the close of the year a separate Director has been appointed, and funds have now been provided by the Imperial Government, which will allow of a great expansion of the work of the Department under competent expert guidance. A steady improvement is manifested in the dissemination of agricultural education and important developments in the curriculum of the Nagpur School are under consideration. Agricultural experiments in the three Government farms took the practical form of the improvement of local methods and seeds, and some useful discoveries were recorded as to the value of embanking fields. It is encouraging to note that the method of prevention of smut in juar seed by pickling with sulphate of copper, which has been put forward by the Department in recent years, is now being keenly taken up by the cultivators of several districts. Demonstrations of improved methods of cultivation were continued on the lines hitherto pursued and the results were fairly encouraging, although the cultivator is here as everywhere very conservative in the retention of his primitive methods of agriculture.

The work performed by the Veterinary Department was satisfactory and several new dispensaries were opened. The progress of inoculation of cattle for rinderpest has been rapid and the amount of work performed has doubled during the past year.

Weather and Crops.

21. The weakness of the western monsoon and the occurrence of a spell of unprecedentedly cold weather in the month of February were the most important meteorological features of the year from an agricultural point of view. The monsoon broke unusually early and gave good rain to many districts in the first half of June. The weather presented no exceptional feature up till the middle of July, but afterwards the western monsoon became very fitful, and during the ensuing six weeks the Vindhyan districts and Chhattisgarh alone received fairly steady rain, the fall in the central districts, although moderate, being so continuous as to cause serious damage to some of the autumn crops sown in the heavier soils. A heavy storm from the East Coast early in September gave good rain when it was most wanted and saved the Wainganga districts from a serious failure of the crops. The total rainfall was in considerable defect, being only $37\frac{1}{2}$ inches against an average of 49 inches. The general character of the season was favourable to the cotton cultivation of the south and the crop reaped was a good one, but the juar crop of the same tracts, though at first showing considerable promise, was subsequently damaged by attacks of locusts, which appeared in large numbers in August and September. The rice of Chhattisgarh and the cotton of Berar and the adjacent Nagpur districts gave a normal yield, but the remainder of the autumn crops were below the average. The total cropped

area, however, had largely increased, and the general results of the season were less unsatisfactory than might have been anticipated. The spring wheat crop was injured by a frost which caused serious loss in some of the northern districts, but gave exceedingly good returns in other parts of the country. The total outturn of the year over the whole Province was 88 per cent. of the standard for a normal year.

Forests.

22. There has been no change in the total area of the State forests during the year. The survey of 242 square miles of forest reserves in Berar was conducted by a detachment of the Forest Survey of India and a considerable amount of demarcation was also carried out in the same Circle. Working plans for certain forest areas in the Central Provinces were prepared during the year and have been submitted for sanction. Considerable progress has been made in the construction of new forest roads for the export of produce. Fire protection was very satisfactory in all Circles, as the area successfully protected rose, while the cost of protection per acre was less than in the preceding year. The demand for forest produce of every description was very brisk, and the net surplus of the year exceeded 6½ lakhs of rupees. The Ordnance Factory at Jubbulpore took large consignments of timber in the log, which was felled by departmental agency; and the sleeper-cutting operations in Balaghat were also continued.

Mines and quarries.

23. The total output from the two coal mines at Warora and at Mohpani showed a slight decrease on the returns for the previous year, which is partly due to the scarcity of labour in the vicinity of the latter mine. The extensive deposits of coal found last year at Ballarpur in the Chanda District are being opened out. Prospecting operations in the Chhindwara District have revealed the presence of coal in large quantities in the valley of the Pench river, and a company for the working of the mines is in process of formation. Rapid development has taken place in the extraction of manganese ore in the Nagpur District, and further deposits have been found in Chhindwara, Balaghat and Bhandara. The number of prospecting licenses granted during the year was 34 and the exploitation of the mineral resources of the Provinces continues in all directions.

Manufactures.

24. The expansion of the area devoted to the cultivation of cotton during recent years has led to the erection of a large number of cotton ginning and pressing factories, and their number has increased during the period under review. Details as to their actual number are not available, as the large majority of them work for less than four months in the year, and are therefore not included in the annual factory returns. The sanitary arrangements are reported to be adequate and the health of the employés to be good. Inspections have shown that the requirements of the law are generally observed by factory owners.

Prices and trade.

25. There was an almost universal fall in the prices of food-grains, although the prices prevailing in the previous year had been unusually low; they also remained very stationary during the greater portion of the year. On the other hand there were remarkable variation, in the price of cotton. At the commencement of the year it was unusually high, in response to the speculative operations carried on in the great markets of America. Towards the close of the year it declined very rapidly, and fell from Rs. 22-12-0 per maund to Rs. 15-4-0. The total volume of trade in these Provinces exceeded the figures for the previous year by 1⅓ million maunds, while its total value increased by 1¼ crores of rupees. Both imports and exports show an increase, the latter consisting almost entirely of cotton, oilseeds and various food-grains. Imports were chiefly in the form of railway plant and rolling-stock, and

an increased importation of sugar, spices and European piece-goods may be taken as an indication of the returning prosperity of the people. The total balance of trade in favour of the Central Provinces and Berar amounted to more than 7 crores of rupees.

Public works.

26. No Imperial works of any importance were undertaken during the year. About 33 lakhs of rupees were spent on Provincial works, of which 16 lakhs were utilised in the construction of new roads and buildings, while the remainder was expended on repairs and establishment. Considerable sums were devoted to the erection of new Tahsil offices and an extensive programme of works was carried out for the provision of new Police station-houses. Original works also included the collection of materials for the new secretariat offices at Nagpur. The extension of school buildings in Berar received particular attention, while considerable provision was made for additions to hospitals, dispensaries and asylums. The total outlay upon original works of communications amounted to close on five lakhs and activity in this direction was manifested chiefly in road construction in Chanda, Hoshangabad, Bhandara and in Eastern Berar. Over eight lakhs of rupees were expended on repairs to existing roads, but a much larger expenditure could usefully be incurred in the extension and improvement of communications did the Provincial finances admit of it. The Victoria Memorial Technical Institute at Nagpur was completed during the year at a total cost of nearly 1½ lakhs.

Irrigation.

27. Irrigation is comparatively little resorted to in the Central Provinces as compared with many other parts of India, but its value is shown in years of short rainfall such as that under report, and the area under irrigation was more than double that of the preceding year. Tanks were fortunately unusually full of water as a result of the abundant rainfall of the preceding year, and cultivators were able to take full advantage of them. Since the report of the Irrigation Commission was published an active policy in the prosecution of State works for the provision of irrigation has been initiated, and operations were steadily pushed on in 1904-05. The work of the Irrigation Circle is rapidly expanding, over 10 lakhs of rupees being expended on protective and other irrigation works. Eight large tank works under construction were practically completed during the year and work on others is well advanced. Several important projects are now under investigation, including the construction of a very large project designed to utilise the surplus water of the Mahanadi. Nearly 2½ lakhs was spent on minor irrigation works, which included the construction of numerous small tanks and of embankments for wheat fields.

Revenue and finance.

28. Evidence of the improved financial condition of all classes in the Central Provinces is afforded by a rise, under almost every head, of Revenue. The general revenues of the Central Provinces rose from 161 to 171 lakhs, of which Provincial Revenues took the same share as in the previous year, and the balance credited to Imperial Revenues rose from 44 to 54 lakhs; expenditure on the other hand was one lakh less than in the previous year, and the surplus available for the Imperial Exchequer rose to 43 lakhs. The income of Local Funds also rose by 2 lakhs. *The General Revenues of Berar were 128 against* 117 lakhs in the previous year, *while the expenditure, which was slightly less* than in the previous year, *amounted to 66 lakhs, leaving a surplus of 62 lakhs for* the Imperial Exchequer, being 11 lakhs more than in the previous year. In both Provinces there were increased receipts from Land Revenue and from Excise,

while in Berar the income-tax, which was levied for the first time in the year under review, produced a revenue of 2½ lakhs : other heads of revenue contributed to the increase in a less degree.

Vital statistics.

29. Except for the continued presence of plague, which carried off 42,866 persons during the twelve months, the year was a healthy one. The birth-rate was 53·19 per mille, the highest recorded for many years, while the death-rate fell from 35·52 to 32·06. The non-epidemic mortality was generally low, and malarial fevers were far less prevalent than usual, as a consequence of the comparative dryness of the season. Small-pox caused considerable loss of life in Bilaspur, but the other districts of the Central Provinces suffered but little, and the total number of recorded deaths was less than in 1903. Cases of cholera were almost unknown over most of the Central Provinces, but the disease was present in an epidemic form in Berar, considerable mortality occurring in the districts of Buldana and Akola.

Emigration.

30. The number of emigrants to the tea gardens of Assam diminished from 3,367 in the previous year to 2,708, while the strength of the recruiting agency has also declined to a marked extent. The greater part of the emigrants belonged, as in past years, to Chhattisgarh, but in the year under review the agricultural population were better off and had little incentive to leave their own country. Wages have risen, and the demand for labour in connection with irrigation projects, railway construction and manganese mining, as well as for employment in factories, has increased so rapidly that the local labour market is now scarcely equal to meeting the supply. There seems but little prospect of emigration from this part of India under present conditions.

Medical relief.

31. The total number of hospitals and dispensaries is now 243. Additional dispensaries are in course of construction in five districts and provision has been made for their upkeep. The number of indoor and outdoor patients treated was slightly greater than in the preceding year in spite of the healthy character of the season, and this is a hopeful sign of the increasing popularity of the various dispensaries. The work of the dispensaries is still handicapped in a considerable degree by the continuance of the plague epidemic, and most of the districts where the disease has been especially prevalent, show a diminished attendance of patients. The year has nevertheless given certain indications that the unreasoning distrust of the people is decreasing, and a large number of plague cases have been treated both as indoor and outdoor patients. Much useful work was done in the private dispensaries maintained by the various Missions. The financial condition of the existing dispensaries is generally satisfactory in Berar, but several of those in the Central Provinces are still cramped by an insufficient income, and there is but little money available for their extension. Subscriptions from native sources showed a considerable increase and liberal contributions were also received from Government and from the various Local Funds. The total income for the combined Provinces was five lakhs, an increase of one lakh over the receipts of the previous year. Expenditure rose by Rs. 65,000, the greater portion being incurred in connection with buildings and repairs. The population of the two Lunatic Asylums at Nagpur and Jubbulpore remained practically unchanged, and criminal lunatics were about 25 per cent. of the total number of inmates. The general health of the patients was fair and the diet scale has been improved. Increased accommodation has been provided at the Nagpur Asylum and a new hospital has also been constructed there.

Sanitation.

32. No important works of construction were undertaken by the Public Works Department in connection with sanitation, but two drainage projects for the municipal towns of Khandwa and Wardha were completed, and a comprehensive scheme for Nagpur City is in course of preparation. Municipalities were generally active, and much has been done to improve the drainage and the water-supply in several large towns. Rural sanitation made considerable progress under the direction of the Sanitary Board and the various District Councils in the improvement of the village water-supply, and private enterprise was by no means behindhand. The larger portion of the special grant of Rs. 25,000 for the improvement of the rural water-supply has been profitably expended.

Vaccination.

33. The record of vaccination work is a very good one and the total number of primary vaccinations performed was 689,787, an increase of 7 per cent. on the previous year's results. The figures are particularly satisfactory in view of the continued presence of plague in many parts of the Province. The percentage of successful operations was 99·31 in the Central Provinces, and was only slightly lower in Berar. Various prophylactics were employed, but glycerinated calf lymph gave by far the best results. The average cost of each successful vaccination was lower than in the previous year, but though the cost per head has been considerably reduced in Berar, it is still higher than in the Central Provinces.

Education.

34. The total number of pupils attending the various schools, inclusive of the Feudatory States, shows an increase of 16,728 as compared with 1903-04, the increase in British territory alone being almost double that recorded in the previous year. These results may be regarded as satisfactory. Special measures were introduced for the improvement of the prospects and of the work of the teaching staff; all masters in Government High and Normal Schools have been graded in the Provincial list and the pay of the Primary School teachers has been raised. An Inspectress of Girls' Schools has been appointed, who will supervise the work of all girls' schools in the Provinces, while the inspection of European schools has been entrusted to a special officer whose services will be shared with the Bombay Government. Secondary schools have had to contend with the effects of plague in many of the chief centres, and the work of the three main colleges has been considerably impeded by the same cause. The percentage of the average daily attendance has, however, increased and the schools are gradually regaining their former position. Rural tracts were less affected by the epidemic, and the work of Primary schools experienced no serious interruption. The task of providing a sufficient number of certificated Primary teachers is still a matter of difficulty, although good work has been done by the various Normal schools and training classes. Female education is becoming increasingly popular and 12 new schools have been opened. The transfer of girls' schools from local bodies to the direct management of the State has given very satisfactory results, and the experiment will now be extended to the Berar schools.

PART II.

CHAPTER I.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

At pages 1 to 52 of the Report on the administration of the Central Provinces for 1901-02 and at pages 1 to 25 of the Report on the administration of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts for the same year will be found an account of the following subjects drawn up for standard reference :—

1.—PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY, AREA, CLIMATE, &c.

2.—HISTORICAL SUMMARY.

3.—FORM OF ADMINISTRATION.

[For an account of the "Form of Administration" in Berar, see paragraph 2 of Part II of the Administration Report of the Central Provinces for 1903-04.]

4.—CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES.

5.—SYSTEM OF SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT.

6.—CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY.

7.—DETAILS OF THE LAST CENSUS—TRIBES AND LANGUAGES.

8.—CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

2. The Hon'ble Sir F. S. P. LELY, C.S.I., K.C.I.E., held charge of the office of Chief Commissioner throughout the year.

9.—RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES.

RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES.

[Report on the administration of the Feudatory States of the Central Provinces for the year 1904.]

Changes in the Administration.

3. There are few changes to be recorded in the administration of the Chhattisgarh Feudatory States. The six States of Bastar, Kalahandi, Sarangarh, Kawardha, Nandgaon and Chhuikhadan continued under the direct administration of Government. In November 1904, Satchida Nand Tikait was formally installed by the Chief Commissioner as Feudatory Chief of Bamra in succession to his father, the late Sir Sudhal Deo, K.C.I.E. The only other notable administrative change during the year was the grant of wider powers to the Feudatory Chief of Rehrakhol, who had during the three previous years ruled under the guidance of an officer appointed by Government.

Rainfall and Crops.

4. The monsoon of 1904 was not on the whole a favourable one. Commencing somewhat earlier than usual, it pursued a normal course up till the beginning of July. The subsequent rainfall during the important months of July and August was exceedingly deficient and capricious, and the autumn crops were only saved from failure by a timely fall of rain at the close of the monsoon season. A normal outturn for rice—the staple crop in the large majority of the States—was, under these circumstances, not to be expected; but the eventual autumn harvest proved very fairly satisfactory. The spring crops did well everywhere, particularly in the four Western States, where they are of considerable importance.

RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES.

Trade and Prices.

5. Accurate information regarding the state of trade in Chhattisgarh is not obtainable, as the returns of the various traffic registration stations did not during the first part of the year include night traffic. Arrangements have now been made to secure an accurate registration of imports and exports for future years. Generally speaking, however, there is evidence of a steady improvement in trade among the larger States, particularly in the case of Raj-Nandgaon, Raigarh, Bamra and Bastar. Prices of food-grains were considerably below the level of the preceding year; this would appear to be due partly to a smaller export demand and partly to the fact that large stocks were held over locally from 1903.

Condition of the people.

6. There can be no doubt that the steady improvement in the condition of the people has been fully maintained during the past year. The precarious nature of the season had no detrimental effect on cultivation, as in all States except Bastar and Kawardha the full area appears to have been sown. There was a brisk demand for agricultural labour, and this fact, coupled with the easy prices which prevailed throughout the year, is clearly accountable for a marked decrease of crime. Apart from a slight outbreak of plague in the town of Khairagarh, the States were free from epidemic disease. There has been no increase of emigration. The birth-rate has exceeded the figures for the previous year, while the death-rate, slightly higher than in 1903, was still moderate.

Finance.

7. The financial position of all the States shows a marked improvement. Patna and Sakti have paid off the balance of their debt, while Khairagarh has reduced its liabilities to half a lakh. Remarkable progress has been made towards the extinction of the debt due by the Nandgaon State, and there is good reason to hope that the outstanding balance will be entirely liquidated in the current year. The six States under Government management maintained their economic progress and showed an increase of nearly one lakh of rupees in their aggregate closing balance.

Land Revenue.

8. The land revenue was realized without difficulty and practically in full in each of the States under direct management, while of the remaining States only Bamra, Patna and Khairagarh failed to collect the full demand. In the case of these three States the failure is more apparent than real from various causes, and is in no way due to any inability on the part of cultivators to respond to the demand. The dates fixed for the payment of land revenue instalments have been revised in all the States and were in some cases so altered as to conform to the exigencies of local agricultural conditions.

Settlement.

9. Satisfactory progress was made with settlement work. The revised assessment proposals for the States of Bastar, Kalahandi and Sarangarh have been sanctioned, the new settlements have been readily accepted by the people and are working satisfactorily. Settlement operations were in progress during the year in Sonpur, Khairagarh and Sakti, and a commencement has been made in Patna and Raigarh. In the latter State the settlement will be in the nature of a summary revision, in accordance with the wishes of the people.

Law, Crime and Justice.

10. A sure indication of a prosperous year is to be found in the diminution in the number of criminal cases tried during 1904. The decrease in the number of offences against property is particularly noticeable. The administration of justice, both Civil and Criminal, is described as being on a sound footing. Decisions are prompt and appear to command the confidence of the people, judging from the small number of appeals preferred. The general character of civil litigation presented no abnormal features, the bulk of it being of a petty and non-contentious character.

For the fourth year in succession there has been a substantial diminution in the number of offences reported to the police, in spite of the undoubted fact that reporting is much better now than it was a few years ago. The continued decrease must of course be attributed, in part, to the return of more prosperous conditions, but there can be no doubt also that the efficiency of the States police has shown general improvement.

Jails.

11. The convict population of the jails in the various States averaged nearly 20 per cent. less than in the previous year. The health of prisoners was good, and discipline has on the whole been well maintained. Arrangements

RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES.

are made, wherever accommodation is sufficient, for the complete segregation of habitual from casual offenders, and for the separation of under-trial prisoners from convicts. Receipts from jail labour have increased, though there have been fewer prisoners, and the penal labour enforced has been of a sufficiently deterrent character. This was not always the case in former years.

Forests.

12. The management of State forests continues to be the most backward feature of Feudatory administration. There has been in the past an unfortunate tendency to regard valuable forest land as a fertile source of immediate revenue rather than as an inheritance to be strictly conserved. Bastar is at present the only State which can show any definite system of forest management on scientific lines, but Raigarh and Bamra have lately taken steps in this direction, and there are indications that other Chiefs are awaking to the importance of the question and are endeavouring to reform their Forest administration.

Excise.

13. Excise receipts have increased in nearly all States, as a natural consequence of a general increase in prosperity. The smuggling of ganja from outside territories is still reported in some of the border States, but inquiries made go to confirm the belief that the cultivation of this drug has been effectually stopped in Chhattisgarh.

Education.

14. Education has continued to make satisfactory progress in all States, and the year has been one of real advancement. There are now over three hundred schools, generally well provided with accommodation and school requirements, and the number of children under instruction has risen from 19,984 to 23,587. The States have during the last decade more than doubled their expenditure on education, and particular attention has been paid to the development of primary schools. The difficulties attaching to the spread of knowledge among children of low caste are being steadily overcome. Three new schools for these classes were opened during the year, and it is worthy of note that there are now 3,275 children under instruction as compared with 422 in the year 1902. The attitude of this section of the community towards education is not generally unfavourable, and may be expected to improve with time and patience. No fees are levied on pupils of this class. The number of girls attending schools increases slowly but steadily every year.

Rajkumar College.

15. The Rajkumar College at Raipur maintains a high standard of efficiency. The working of the model farm on the College premises has been followed with much interest by the boys, and the practical improvements in the method of agricultural instruction, introduced last year, have fully justified themselves. Physical training has received continued attention, and the keenness of the boys in their games is in marked contrast to their attitude a few years ago. The health of the pupils has been good and the general tone and discipline of the College is excellent. No changes were made in the curriculum of the College during the year.

Public Works.

16. The expenditure on public works in the seven States in the charge of the Executive Engineer, Chhattisgarh States Division, increased slightly, and substantial improvements were effected in Kalahandi, Patna, Nandgaon and Bastar. In Nandgaon the contract system, under which public works were previously carried out, has been discarded, and the hospital buildings and police station-house were constructed under the direct supervision of the State Superintendent. The experiment proved successful alike from an economic and a practical point of view. Considerable progress was made with the extension of lines of communication in Kalahandi, Patna and Bastar, and existing roads were adequately maintained. The Rehrakhol State was withdrawn from the charge of the Executive Engineer for the States during the year.

Berar.

17. There are no Feudatory States in Berar.

10.—CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

The Season.

18. The close of the year 1903-04 showed the agricultural population of the Central Provinces and Berar in the enjoyment of a widespread prosperity unknown in the preceding decade, and in a large measure recovered from the disastrous effects of the two great famine years. During the period now under review this

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

improvement has been on the whole satisfactorily maintained, though the rainfall of 1904 was exceptionally capricious and the frost experienced during the succeeding February to a great extent destroyed the promise of an unusually good spring crop. The monsoon broke unexpectedly early and gave a sufficiency of rain for sowing purposes up to the middle of July. The succeeding six weeks were almost entirely rainless, except in the Vindhyan districts and in Chhattisgarh. The situation continued practically unchanged until the second week in September, when a heavy storm from the eastern coast passed across the Provinces in time to save the Wainganga rice districts from a serious crop failure, while the subsequent rainfall removed all cause for anxiety. The cold-weather showers were favourable to the wheat crop, which would have been an exceptionally fine one all over the Provinces but for the frost of the first half of February, which ruined the crop in Saugor and caused serious loss in several of the other northern districts. As a general result of the season, the rice cultivators in the Wainganga Valley districts had once more a disappointing year, though the fine crop reaped in 1903 enabled them to bear up against this fresh failure. Fortunately, the rice crop in the districts of Chhattisgarh proved little short of normal, a result peculiarly satisfactory, as the area under rice had increased largely in comparison with the preceding year. In Berar and in the adjacent districts of the Central Provinces some damage was caused to the juar crops by locusts, but the resultant loss was far less than might have been expected. Cotton cultivators once more enjoyed a good year, particularly in Berar and in the southern districts of the Central Provinces, and the rapid expansion of the area under this crop is one of the features of the year. During the past year cultivation has increased, and the inferior crops resorted to in the years when the more expensive seed-grains were difficult to procure are being generally discarded in favour of wheat and other valuable staples. The people grow year by year less dependent on Government loans for seed-grain, and the wages of both skilled and unskilled labour are rising everywhere. In the southern districts particularly the briskness of the cotton trade, combined with the rapid expansion of mineral enterprise, has resulted in a demand for labour which is almost in excess of the supply.

Trade.

19. The trade returns furnish reliable evidence of the advancing prosperity of these Provinces. Exports of grain from the eastern districts of Chhattisgarh have been unprecedentedly large, and are, in fact, equal to those of the whole of the rest of the Province. Imports of food-grains decreased, while exports increased by nearly 50,000 tons. The export trade in raw cotton and oilseeds was again exceedingly valuable, and the general balance of trade in favour of the Provinces is probably the largest on record.

Plague.

20. Though plague was slightly less prevalent than in the preceding year, it still exacted a heavy toll from the Province. The districts chiefly affected were Nagpur, Jubbulpore, Narsinghpur, Saugor and Amraoti. The large towns of Nagpur and Kamptee were fortunate in enjoying almost complete immunity from the disease. In Berar, which had previously suffered severely, the mortality decreased by 38 per cent. The attitude of the people in general in regard to the epidemic shows a satisfactory and continuous improvement. The old prejudices and suspicions no doubt die hard, but mendacious tales regarding official action and motives have certainly been less numerous. Evacuation in many cases, and especially in the smaller villages, is now automatic. No persuasion is necessary. In some instances the people have asked for advice, disinfectants and even medicines.

Summary.

21. On a general view of the conditions of the year it may be said that the economic welfare of the people has appreciably advanced. The birth-rate in Berar is the highest recorded during the past 33 years, while in the Central Provinces and Berar combined the birth-rate is higher than in any other Province of India. Criminal statistics show only a slight increase on the very low figure recorded in the previous year, and the material and moral progress of the Province appears in the steady rise of the standard of comfort which extends to the poorest classes.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

1.—REALISATION OF THE REVENUE.

REALISATION OF THE REVENUE.

[Resolution on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces for the year ending 30th September 1904, paragraph 9 and following, and of Berar for the year 1903-04, paragraph 8 and following.]

The Central Provinces.

22. The total demand of ordinary land revenue on the roll at the close of the year stood at Rs. 85,80,036, showing a net increase of Rs. 63,588. The increase is chiefly due to the re-settlement of the Warora Tahsil of the Chanda District and to the revision of settlements in the Raipur Zamindaris. Out of the current demand it was found necessary to suspend a total sum of rather more than a quarter of a lakh, in a few scattered localities in the northern districts, on account of the destruction of the spring crops by hailstorms, while further suspensions in the rice districts of the Wainganga Valley, amounting to Rs. 21,090, were required in tracts where the unequal character of the monsoon rains had appreciably reduced the rice outturn. Five and three-quarter lakhs suspended in Raipur in 1903 were remitted in conformity with the policy that had been followed in other districts where the harvest had failed. A sum of Rs 1,30,775 was also remitted in the Nagpur Division. Leaving out of account the amounts suspended, the land revenue collections of the year have been very satisfactory. In almost every district the amounts due in respect of the net current demand were realized practically in full, and the revenue accounts are now more clear than they have been at any period during the past ten years. The balance due from former years now stands at little over a quarter of a lakh, while collections on arrear accounts amounted to Rs. 76,784.

Berar.

23. Cultivators in Berar had a prosperous year, and out of a total demand of Rs. 85,13,965, all but Rs. 3,096 was collected. Of this latter sum, Rs. 1,586 was remitted, chiefly in the Buldana District, and there remains for collection only a small outstanding balance of Rs. 1,710. The revenue demand shows an increase of upwards of 8 lakhs on the previous year, due to revision of settlements, and the realizations under such circumstances are eminently satisfactory.

Coercive processes.

24. Both in the Central Provinces and in Berar the realization of land revenue was accomplished with far less recourse to the more severe forms of process than was the case in previous years. Over four-fifths of the land revenue in the Central Provinces was collected without resort to any form of coercion, and while attachments were effected in 1,024 cases as against 1,713 in the previous year, the number of sales actually carried out fell from 197 to 61. In Berar the number of fields attached and sold fell from 184 and 31 in the preceding year to 33 and 8 respectively in the year under review. The general conclusions to be drawn from these figures, while exceedingly creditable to taxpayers, also go to show that the agricultural conditions of the year were generally favourable. Only six defaulters were confined in the civil jail in the Central Provinces, while in Berar this method of coercion was not found necessary in any single case.

REALISATION OF THE REVENUE.

Government Loans.

25. The Government Loan Account (principal) is shown in thousands of rupees in the following statement. The figures are for the financial year ending March 31st, 1905:—

	Under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.		Under the Land Improvement Loans Act.	
	With interest.	Without interest.	With interest.	Without interest.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Outstanding at the commencement of the year, *i. e.*, on 1st April 1904.	440	493	393	...
Remitted during the year 1904-05 ...	130	55	9	...
Collected do. ...	454	317	69	..
Advanced do. ...	387	...	103	...
Outstanding at the close of the year, *i. e.*, on 31st March 1905.	235	121	418	...

It will be seen that the various loan transactions effected during the year were comparatively unimportant, the total amount advanced being under five lakhs against over 16 lakhs in the previous year. Collections of outstanding and current arrears under the Agriculturists' Loans Act were exceedingly good. The punctuality with which these loans are repaid is very creditable to the cultivating classes, and may be fairly regarded as an acknowledgment on their part of the generous aid afforded them by Government in years when credit with the local money-lender was scarce. The principle, introduced a few years ago, of making these loans on the joint responsibility of all the cultivators in the village who take them, has found favour with the people and has conduced largely to prompt collection of the demand. Nearly one-half of the total amount remitted was on account of old and irrecoverable outstandings in the Damoh District, and, except in point of date, forms part of the history of the preceding year. Advances for field improvements were taken chiefly in the districts of Chanda and Bhandara, where a system of tank construction on the grant-in-aid principle is being followed, and in Nimar, where the cultivators in ryotwari villages have come forward to take loans for clearing their fields and for building irrigation wells. The total amount of Government loans outstanding for collection is now only $7\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs, and is well within the paying capacity of the people. Loan transactions in Berar are insignificant owing to the extremely prosperous conditions prevailing in that Division.

2.—SURVEYS.

SURVEYS.

26. During the field season of 1904-05 the traverse survey of an area of 111 linear miles was completed by the Imperial Survey Department. A supplementary topographical survey of 2,719 square miles—mostly in Saugor and Damoh—was also completed. The cadastral survey of 5 square miles in five villages of the Baihar Tahsil of Balaghat was carried out by the agency of the Land Record staff under the direction of an Assistant Settlement Officer trained in the Imperial Survey Department. The latter work was necessary on account of the inaccuracy of the original survey, which was based on an incorrect traverse made by local agency.

3.—SETTLEMENTS.

SETTLEMENTS.

27. The orders of the Government of India were received on the proposals for the revision of assessment in the Nimar District. The review of the Commissioner of Settlements on the final Settlement Report of the Zamindari estates in the Raipur District and on the final report of the revision of the settlement of the Hoshangabad District was submitted during the year.

Berar.—The period under report is from 1st August 1904 to 31st July 1905. Field operations were commenced in the Yeotmal Taluq of the Yeotmal District, the current settlement of which expires in 1905-06. Two survey parties working under native Surveyors and under the general supervision of a Settlement Officer completed the work. The old measurements were tested in all parts of the taluq, and in addition three villages were selected by the Settlement Officer and entirely re-measured number by number. The result was satisfactory, and the old work was therefore accepted as correct for the whole of the taluq. The old classification of soils was also personally tested by the Settlement Officer in 15 villages with equally satisfactory results. By the completion of the Yeotmal Taluq, revision survey work in Berar has come to an end. In April 1905, a senior classer with six measurers and classers from the two Wun Survey parties was sent to the Basim District to begin the work of dividing and classifying the lands recently disforested in that district. They measured and classified nearly 9,000 acres. Proposals for the revision settlement of the Wun, Kelapur and Yeotmal Taluqs were submitted by the Settlement Officer during the year and those of Wun and Kelapur have been forwarded for the orders of the Government of India.

Central Provinces.—The settlement operations continued in Mandla, Chanda (khalsa and Zamindaris), Sambalpur (khalsa and Zamindaris) and in the ryotwari villages of the Nimar, Betul and Chhindwara Districts. In the khalsa portion of the Dhamtari Tahsil in the Raipur District and in the Mungeli Tahsil of the Bilaspur District the operations suspended on account of the deterioration caused by famine were resumed this season under the orders of the Government of India.

Balaghat.—Map correction preparatory to assessment was started in the Baihar Tahsil of the Balaghat District. The work was completed in 112 villages with an area of 167 square miles, leaving a balance of 153 villages with an area of 186 square miles for next season. Records of all the villages (112) have been completed. The total cost of the operations amounted to Rs. 11,295.

Mandla.—The attestation of 429 villages with an area of 569 square miles was accomplished during the year. The Settlement Officer inspected 529 villages (including those of last season left over uninspected) comprising an area of 718 square miles, leaving a balance of 1,046 villages still to be attested and 1,138 villages to be inspected at the close of the year. Rent-rate proposals for 265 villages comprising an area of 400 square miles were submitted. The cost of the operations during the year amounted to Rs. 50,530.

Chanda.—During the year under report 27 villages were attested and 321 villages were inspected. This brought the field operations to a close. Rent-rate proposals for 725 khalsa villages with an area of 1,177 square miles, assessment proposals for 1,048 khalsa villages with an area of 1,642 square miles and 1,206 Zamindari villages with an area of 4,891 square miles were submitted. The revision of assessments both in the khalsa and Zamindaris brought about an enhancement of Rs. 65,423, of which a great part is, however, not recoverable until the next revenue year. The total cost of the operations amounted to Rs. 68,055.

Sambalpur.—The year's operations were confined to attestation of 183 villages and inspection of 453 villages (including those of last year left over uninspected). Records of 687 villages comprising an area of 1,143 square miles were completed during the year under report. Rent-rate proposals for 443 khalsa villages (550 square miles) and 918 Zamindari villages (1,320 square miles) and assessment proposals for 742 khalsa villages (1,152 square miles) and 876 Zamindari villages (1,177 square miles) were submitted during the year. The revision of assessments both in the khalsa and Zamindaris brought about an enhancement of Rs. 48,787, or 35 per cent., the greater part of which is recoverable in the current revenue year. The cost of the year's operations amounted to Rs. 56,589.

SETTLEMENTS.

Raipur.—Map correction preparatory to assessment in 177 villages with an area of 327 square miles in Sihawa Pargana of the Dhamtari Tahsil and a few villages of Raipur and Simga Tahsils was completed during the field season. Attestation was carried out in 460 villages, of which 274 villages were inspected by the Settlement Officer. The cost of the operations amounted to Rs. 45,919. Operations did not commence till January 1905.

Bilaspur.—Six hundred and thirteen villages (563 square miles) were attested during the year and 262 villages (219 square miles) were inspected by the Settlement Officer. The total amount expended on the operations came to Rs. 31,966. Here also operations did not begin till January 1905. Proposals for the inception of revision operations in the Zamindaris have been submitted during the year.

Betul and Chhindwara.—The revised assessments in 102 ryotwari villages (134 square miles) of the Betul District and 86 ryotwari villages (54 square miles) of the Chhindwara District have been announced during the year under report. This brought the operations to a close. The cost of operations in Betul amounted to Rs. 131 and in Chhindwara to Rs. 2,310-8-0.

Nimar.—The only work done in the district during the year under report was that the rent-rate report of two villages comprising an area of 6 square miles and the assessment reports of 6 villages with an area of 14 square miles were sanctioned. The expenditure incurred during the year under report was Rs. 3,191.

LAND RECORDS. 4.—LAND RECORDS.

[Report on the operations of the Land Record and Settlement Department in the Central Provinces during the year ending 30th September 1904.]

Establishment. 28. No alterations of any special importance were effected as regards the establishment and the distribution of the Land Record staff in the Central Provinces, although several minor changes were made. In the Balaghat District an enquiry into the administration of ryotwari villages led to some re-arrangement of Patwaris' and Revenue Inspectors' circles, and one Patwari Circle was transferred to the Mandla District. Assistant Superintendents of Land Records were appointed in six districts and proposals were sanctioned for the strengthening of the staff in the Chhindwara jagirs by the addition of an inspector and 22 patwaris. The pay of Patwari Fund Clerks was raised in 12 districts in pursuance of a scheme sanctioned in the preceding year. In Berar the arrangements for the supervision of Land Records were much improved by the appointment of an inspecting staff, consisting of Circle Inspectors under the supervision of District Inspectors, these officers corresponding respectively to Revenue Inspectors and Superintendents of Land Records in the Central Provinces. This arrangement had existed previously in the Akola and Buldana districts, as a tentative measure, and it has now been extended to the whole of the Division except the Melghat. Inspection of Land Records in Berar has shown that while the statements of rent-roll and village accounts are very accurately maintained, there is much room for improvement in the crop statements and registers of live-stock, the reason being that the patels have a more direct interest in the former than in the latter, which are merely statistical papers drawn up for the information of Government and were hitherto somewhat roughly compiled by the patwaris without any co-operation on the part of the patels. As the actual test of the accuracy of the crop statements is one of the most important duties of the newly organized inspecting staff, considerable improvement may now be expected in the accuracy of the crop statistics. Another step which should result in greater accuracy is the instruction of the inspectors and patwaris in surveying, a matter which is now receiving careful attention.

Boundary marks. 29. Village boundary marks and traverse stations were generally maintained in good order, though there is still room for improvement in the districts of Nagpur, Chanda and Raipur. Much was done to amend the condition of the boundary marks in ryotwari villages, which had suffered from a tendency to neglect of late years on the part of the subordinate staff.

LAND RECORDS.

30. The preparation of circle note-books is practically complete in all districts. Village note-books also have been everywhere thoroughly revised, and were of great practical utility to inspecting officers on tour. These note-books have hitherto been maintained only in malguzari villages, and it is now proposed to introduce them in the case of ryotwari villages also. During the year the maintenance of famine note-books was finally discontinued; always of doubtful value, they are now superfluous, as the information they were intended to supply will be available in the detailed scheme of famine works which will be maintained in the permanent Famine Programme.

Utilization of land records.

31. The checking of village land records by Revenue Inspectors and Superintendents shows general improvement, and Deputy Commissioners and their Assistants were able to devote more time to this work than was the case in the previous year. The percentage of inaccuracy discovered over the Central Provinces has fallen from 1·99 to 1·72, and is nowhere very high.

Testing of Land Records.

32. The number of patwaris who have official permission to reside outside their circles has fallen from 194 to 187, while the number of non-residents who have not obtained permission has fallen from 315 to 279. The subject of compelling patwaris to live within their circles has received constant attention of late years, and the percentage of patwaris who are non-resident without permission has fallen in two years from 9·16 to 5·66. It is still very difficult to enforce this rule, particularly in the Nagpur District; the attractions which a capital town offers are a great temptation to patwaris, and, owing to the general rise of wages, it is no easy matter to find men willing to work on the comparatively low rate of pay which is all that can be offered at present. The number of punishments inflicted on patwaris throughout the Provinces shows a slight decrease, which is gratifying in view of the closer supervision which has been rendered possible in recent years. Punishments inflicted on Revenue Inspectors have decreased from 49 to 31. Dismissal was only resorted to in three cases, and the general standard of efficiency is satisfactory throughout the Province. No punishments were found necessary in the case of Superintendents or their Assistants, who have continued to do excellent work.

Conduct of Land Record Staff.

5.—WASTE LANDS.

WASTE LANDS.

33. *Waste lands.*—The area actually allotted to ryots during the year amounted to 61,362 acres, bearing an assessment of Rs. 13,141, whilst the area relinquished was 21,334 acres, bearing an assessment of Rs. 5,934. The demand for land was largest in the Nimar, Balaghat, Chanda and Seoni Districts. The total area allotted in these ryotwari tracts amounts to 703,487 acres with an assessment of Rs. 2,14,307. The rapid extension of cultivation in the malguzari and ryotwari villages of the Nimar District has brought forward the question of settling the balance of the forest areas already marked out for cultivation in that district, and proposals for the survey and assessment of 153,389 acres, forming about 100 villages, have been received from the Settlement Commissioner since the close of the year.

6.—GOVERNMENT ESTATES.

GOVERNMENT ESTATES.

34. There are no Government Estates in the Central Provinces or Berar.

7.—WARDS ESTATES.

WARDS ESTATES.

[Report on the management by Government of private estates for the year ending the 30th September 1904.]

The Central Provinces.

35. The policy of relieving the Court of Wards of the charge of seriously encumbered estates has been continued during the year under review, and eight estates in the districts of Hoshangabad and Narsinghpur, which a succession of calamitous seasons had reduced to a condition of hopeless indebtedness, were relinquished. The total number of estates under management has thus been reduced to 99, exclusive of two estates which are administered under the Guardian and Wards Act.

WARDS' ESTATES.

Income.

36. Owing to the changes that have taken place in the number of estates under management a comparison between the gross figures for income and expenditure in succeeding years would serve no useful purpose. The principal source of income in nearly all the estates is from rental payments, and 94 per cent. of a current demand amounting to 7 lakhs was realized.

The other main source of income is forest receipts, and this shows a satisfactory increase. Special attention was paid to the working of estate forests all over the Province, and trained Forest Rangers have been placed in charge of two important forest areas in Chanda and Sambalpur. The forest income from the 20 estates in the Nerbudda Division has nearly doubled in the past year, and the divisions of Nagpur and Chhattisgarh both show substantial increments under this head. The progress effected during the past year will appear from the fact that while the total uncultivated area of the estates remains at little over $3\frac{1}{4}$ million acres—there being only a slight advance on last year's figures in this respect—the total gross income accruing has risen from Rs. 1,17,000 to Rs. 1,57,318.

Expenditure.

37. The gross expenditure has been considerably higher than in the previous year, but this is chiefly due to the payment in full of the land revenue demand, which in the year 1902-03 had been suspended or remitted in the principal rice districts. The charges incurred on account of forest establishment have also risen to some extent, but the additional expenditure is more than covered by the enhanced income derived from proper management on improved lines. Continued attention has been paid to economy in the management of estates, particularly in the Chhattisgarh Division, where the cost of management was only 13 per cent. of the gross receipts of all the estates taken together.

Improvements.

38. The large majority of the estates were taken under Court of Wards management on account of their indebtedness, and their restoration to a state of solvency has been much impeded by the recent series of unfavourable seasons; the amount that can be spent on improvements is consequently small. In the two Northern Divisions, where the indebtedness is greatest, very little could be done, and expenditure in this respect was also considerably reduced in Nagpur and Chhattisgarh. A cattle farm has been started at Jaitpur, a village belonging to a solvent estate in Nagpur, and has been placed under the supervision of the Agricultural Department. Improvements in Chhattisgarh estates have principally taken the form of repairs and construction of irrigation tanks.

Debt.

39. Considerable progress has been made in the liquidation of the debts of the various encumbered estates. Rupees. 2,17,000 was devoted to this purpose out of current income, as against Rs. 1,68,600 in the year preceding, although the number of estates for which returns are furnished had been reduced. The total debt is lower by over 7 lakhs of rupees, and stood at the close of the year at Rs. 9,58,340. This decrease is partly due to the abandonment of some hopelessly involved estates in the Jubbulpore and Hoshangabad Divisions.

General.

40. Some of the wards of the Court, of a suitable age, have been sent to the Nagpur Agricultural School with a view to their receiving instruction in the proper management of their home-farm cultivation. Cordial relations prevailed between the Court and the tenants of the various estates, and there was very little litigation over most of the Province, although it was found necessary to file a certain number of rent suits in the Nerbudda Division. Considering the high percentage of rental realizations achieved, this is a very satisfactory feature of the year's working.

Berar.

41. There are no Court of Wards estates in the Berar Division.

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

8.—REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

[Resolution on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th September 1904. Report on the Revenue Administration of Berar for the year 1903-04.]

General conditions.

42. In spite of the fact that the agricultural conditions of the year were not wholly favourable, the period under review may be fairly regarded as one of marked recovery throughout the Province. The rice districts of Chhattisgarh have, after long waiting, been rewarded with a rice crop which should go far to

re-establish the prosperity of the small farmers in that tract. There has been a distinct advance in the cropped area of the northern districts, in which wheat is gradually taking the place it held before the famines, while in the south of the Province the failure of the rice was to a great extent counterbalanced by the excellence of the other crops reaped.

Tenants.

43. Rental collections were uniformly good all over the Central Provinces, and malguzars had consequently no difficulty in meeting the revenue demand. The total rental demand increased to some extent. The areas held by absolute occupancy and occupancy tenants showed only a slight decline, while the area in the occupation of ordinary tenants has increased by over 200,000 acres, the expansion being shared by all Divisions in the Provinces. Ordinary tenants have made but little attempt to purchase occupancy rights ; it would seem that they regard their position under the new Tenancy Act as already sufficiently secure. A further indication of the increasing stability of the agricultural classes is furnished by the decrease in transfers of land, both in the case of private sales and in sales by order of the Civil Courts. The majority of the sales that took place were in favour of agriculturists. The fact that better prices were almost everywhere obtained indicates a gradual recovery in the land market. The ryotwari estate has continued to expand and new land to the extent of over 60,000 acres has been taken up during the year. There was but little demand for Government loans for the purchase of seed-grain, and tenants were, as a rule, well able to make their own arrangements. A beginning is being made with the starting of Co-operative Credit Societies in some of the districts of the Nagpur Division and in Hoshangabad. Ground will be first broken in the districts where conciliation of debts has been undertaken, and the experience of the officers who have carried out these proceedings will be taken advantage of in devising schemes which will be acceptable to the people, and which are therefore likely to meet with success. The conciliation of cultivators' debts was practically concluded in Hoshangabad, Betul and Bhandara ; in the first-named district debts amounting to the immense total of 73 lakhs of rupees were remitted. Much of this was no doubt irrecoverable, but a fresh start has been given to many who would otherwise never have recovered their position as cultivators. The general results have been most successful.

Landlords.

44. Landlords have, as a body, fully shared in the economic progress of their tenants. They found themselves in a position to pay the annual revenue demand in full, while they have also paid up practically all their arrears. The tendency towards the contraction of the area held by them as *sir* or home-farm was far less pronounced than in previous years. This fact is satisfactory as indicating that the indebtedness caused by the famines among the poorer members of the proprietary body is rapidly working itself out. The districts of Raipur and Hoshangabad form an exception to the general rule ; these two districts have suffered severely in the past, and the proprietors are still heavily involved. It is no doubt the case that the malguzars of Raipur are, as a class, less substantial than in any other part of the Central Provinces.

Relations between landlords and tenants.

45. As a natural consequence of a fairly prosperous year, the relations existing between landlords and their tenants have continued to be satisfactory, and the small resort that has been had to the provisions of the Tenancy Act which deal with enhancement of rents tends to show that the old patriarchal relations subsisting between these classes have not disappeared under the influence of recent legislation. General litigation between landlord and tenant is almost entirely confined, in most districts, to suits for the recovery of arrears of rent. In Berar the agricultural tenure is entirely ryotwari and cultivators hold their lands directly from Government.. It is sufficient to remark that the relations subsisting between the different classes are generally harmonious.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY.

1.—LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY.

46. The Legislative Authority for the Central Provinces and Berar is the Council of the Governor-General of India for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations.

COURSE OF LEGISLATION.

2.—COURSE OF LEGISLATION.

47. The only Act of the Imperial Legislature passed during the calendar year 1904 which specially affected the Central Provinces was Act II of 1904 (the Central Provinces Civil Courts Act, 1904). The Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, XV of 1865, and the Negotiable Instruments Act, XXVI of 1881, were applied to Berar during the year 1904, the application of the latter Act taking effect from the 28th January 1905.

POLICE.

3.—POLICE.

[Report on the Police Administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1904 and also Table No. VII of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1904-05.]

Crime.

48. The amount of reported crime in the Central Provinces and Berar was satisfactorily small, being almost exactly the same as the previous minimum recorded in 1903. Wages rose considerably, while the price of food-grains generally remained low, and there was consequently but little incentive to theft of the more ordinary character. The Chhattisgarh districts exhibit the results of a good harvest in a remarkable fall in the number of thefts and house-breakings recorded. The general decrease in casual crime, the natural outcome of recent prosperous years, serves to throw a stronger light on professional crime, which is independent of the general circumstances of the people, and considerable success has been achieved in dealing with offences of this nature.

Offences against the State.

49. Favourable results were obtained in the detection of coining cases, the number of which increased from 49 to 67, mainly owing to two clever captures of gangs of "Chapparband" coiners in Hoshangabad and Raipur. Rioting cases were rather more numerous than in the previous year, but they were generally of an unimportant character.

Offences against the person.

50. While the total number of serious offences against the person has risen, the number of murders committed is less than in the preceding year. No definite conclusions can be drawn from the statistics of this class of crime, which shows a tendency towards increase and decrease in alternate years. The Chhattisgarh Division exhibited a marked falling off from the very high number of murders recorded last year.

Offences against property.

51. The number of dacoities in the Central Provinces fell to the abnormally low figure of 14, of which five were very petty affairs. This form of crime, at one time common in the northern districts, has shown a remarkable decrease, and only one dacoity occurred in this portion of the Province during the past year. Dacoity by Central Provinces people was almost unknown during the year, nearly all the recorded cases being the work of outside gangs. In Berar there was some increase in the number of offences of this nature reported, and in the districts of Akola, Ellichpur, Amraoti and Buldana the crime of real dacoity was exceptionally prevalent. Both the Central Provinces and Berar exhibit a remarkable decrease in the number of robberies and house-breakings recorded. For some time to come the visitations of plague threaten to be an uncertain factor of increase in the number of house-breakings, and the marked improvement in the condition of several of the larger towns is under these circumstances particularly creditable to the vigilance of the Police.

Police action.

52. The general circumstances of the year were decidedly in favour of effective police action. In a year of general prosperity, which offered no special temptations to the casual offender, the Police were comparatively unhampered by

petty crime and were able to concentrate greater attention on the prevention and detection of serious offences. They were further aided by the circumstance that better information is being gradually obtained regarding the identity and customs of professional criminals. In the Central Provinces the slight rise of 2 per cent. in the number of cases investigated is the natural sequence of the decrease in petty crime. The general policy of abstaining freely from investigation into unimportant offences continued to be followed; the discretion thus left to the Police has been on the whole wisely exercised, and there is no reason to believe that the system has led to any omission to report offences. In Berar the opposite system of investigating almost every reported offence has hitherto been followed; this procedure was altered in the course of the year so as to conform more with the practice obtaining in the larger Province, and the percentage of investigations fell from 88 to 82 as against a corresponding percentage of 66 in the Central Provinces. Effective action was taken in Sambalpur to prevent the various bands of dacoits at work in the adjoining Native States from extending their operations to the British district. In the Central Provinces the preventive action taken by the Police, more especially against professional criminals, was generally successful. The standard of Police work in Berar was less satisfactory, and detective work, in murder cases particularly, left much scope for improvement. Owing to the higher standard of intelligence prevailing in the Berar districts the investigation of crime is a more complicated matter than in the Central Provinces. Considerable detective ability was, however, evinced in several dacoity cases, and a large mass of information has been collected regarding the composition of various gangs of wandering criminals, which should pave the way to a vastly improved system of prevention and detection of professional dacoities in Berar in the future.

Rural and Punitive Police.

53. There are no Rural Police in the Central Provinces or in Berar. Punitive Police were employed in five villages situated respectively in the districts of Buldana, Ellichpur, Raipur, Saugor and Narsinghpur, the force employed consisting of one head constable and four constables in the first four cases and of a head constable and two constables in the case of Narsinghpur.

Establishment.

54. The strength of the Police force showed a deficiency of 273 men at the close of the year, as compared with a deficiency of 353 at its commencement. In the latter part of the year it was found necessary to grant local allowances to constables in Berar and the adjoining districts of the Central Provinces, so as to raise the minimum pay to Rs. 8. This measure had the effect of improving recruiting to a considerable extent. Since the close of the year the orders of the Government of India on the report of the Police Commission have been received, and the many important reforms which are to be introduced are now under consideration. There is a satisfactory decrease in the death-roll from last year's excessive figure of 237 to 156.

Discipline.

55. The discipline of the Police force was generally satisfactory throughout the year. The punishment returns are again considerably lighter than before, while the standard of efficient discipline has in no way declined. In many Central Provinces districts the punishments shown are phenomenally few as compared with those of former years, and there is a marked decrease in the number of punishments inflicted on officers. Rewards of all kinds have been more freely granted than ever before, and particular care has been taken to see that special rewards were given in every important case in which either the Police or private individuals did good service in the prevention or detection of crime or in the arrest of offenders.

4.—CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

[Report on the Judicial Administration (Criminal) of the Central Provinces for the year 1904, and Table IV of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1904-05.]

Crime.

56. The total number of criminal cases reported rose from 23,786 to 25,825 in the Central Provinces, and from 15,859 to 16,373 in Berar. In the Central Provinces, cases of ordinary hurt and assault show an increase of over 1,400, and theft cases declined in number. While it is probable that variations in crime statistics from year to year are mainly accidental and scarcely repay comment, the figures above quoted appear to indicate that the improved economic conditions of the year have played some part in the results shown. Greater prosperity tends to diminish the number of offences against property, while, on the other hand,

the people are enabled by it to have recourse to the Courts in petty cases of defamation, assault and hurt. The increase in the number of reported cases is also due in a considerable measure to increased activity on the part of the local authorities in enforcing the various special and local laws.

Courts of original jurisdiction.

57. The strength of the Magistracy remained practically constant throughout the year. Of the total number of persons brought before the Courts of the Central Provinces two-thirds were disposed of by subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates and the bulk of the remainder by Honorary Magistrates. In Berar only 11 per cent. of the ordinary case work came before Honorary Magistrates. Both Provinces show a marked increase in the number of cases tried summarily by Magistrates exercising summary powers. While the increase in the Central Provinces is justified by the larger number of petty cases instituted under the special and local laws, in which a summary procedure is especially suitable, there is some ground for believing that these powers have been too freely exercised in Berar, and instructions have been issued accordingly to the subordinate Criminal Courts. In the Central Provinces the number of persons brought before the Magistrates amounted to 34,845, of whom rather more than 50 per cent. were convicted, this figure being practically the same as in the previous year. The percentage of convictions in Berar fell from 45 to 39·4, a result which cannot be regarded as satisfactory, and indicates beyond doubt insufficient discrimination in the issue of process.

The despatch of business.

58. There was a slight improvement in the punctuality of disposal of criminal work in the Central Provinces, and a slight falling off in Berar, where, however, the average duration is still less than in the Central Provinces. On the whole, cases have been disposed of with fair despatch, though in some districts the average duration was excessive. The heaviest districts, Nagpur and Jubbulpore, show the best figures in this respect. In both Provinces increased use was made by the Courts of the provisions of Section 203 and Section 250, Criminal Procedure Code, for dealing with frivolous and vexatious complaints.

Sessions Courts.

59. Sub-Divisional Magistrates have now been appointed in most districts of the Central Provinces and in all those of Berar. The experiment has also been tried of investing selected Naib-Tahsildars in some of the heavier tahsils with criminal powers in order to relieve the Tahsildars. These measures should result in a considerable improvement in the disposal of criminal work, both original and appellate. In both Provinces the original work of the Courts of Session was much the same in amount as in 1903, while a marked and satisfactory rise in the percentage of convictions has taken place in Berar. The average duration of Sessions trials in the Central Provinces is 70 days. Under present arrangements it is not possible for any Sessions Judge to hold his Court in each district more than once in three months, and better results cannot be expected until the area of Sessions Divisions has been decreased. This matter is under consideration.

Appellate and Revisional jurisdiction.

60. The number of appeals filed before all classes of Appellate Courts has increased both in the Central Provinces and in Berar, especially in the Court of the Sessions Judge, Berar. The percentage of cases in which the lower Court's finding and sentence was confirmed has fallen in all Courts. In two cases in the Central Provinces and in three in Berar appeals were lodged by the Government against acquittals, and in all these cases the appeals were successful. The total number of death sentences referred to the Judicial Commissioners for confirmation was 29; sentence was approved in 15 cases, in seven it was commuted to transportation for life, while in seven the accused were acquitted.

Punishment.

61. Sentences of death in the various Sessions Courts show a decrease from last year, the figures being 30 as against 36. On the other hand, transportation was ordered in 121 cases as against 64 in 1903. The increase in sentences of transportation for a term of years is remarkable, and is due in great measure to the conviction of a gang of 29 persons of the Kanjar caste who were detected carrying on an organized system of habitual theft in different parts of Berar. The punishment returns for Magistrates' Courts present no unusual features. Magistrates as a body appear to make a somewhat sparing use of whipping as a punishment, but the tendency to inflict unduly short terms of imprisonment is less pronounced than in the past.

5.—PRISONS.

[Report on the Jails of the Central Provinces for the year 1904, and Table V of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1904-05.]

General.

62. The chief features of the year's Prison administration have been a decrease in the average jail population, an extremely low rate of mortality and improved financial and economic management, resulting in a considerable decrease in the cost of rations, coupled with an increase of 38 per cent in the profits of jail manufactures.

Jail population.

63. The total number of prisoners admitted to jail in 1904 was 10,247 as compared with 9,429 in 1903, an increase of 798, to which convicts contributed 357 and under-trial prisoners 451. No special explanation of this slight increase is necessary, as the number of admissions in 1903 was the smallest recorded for a very long period. There has been a marked decline in the daily average population, which in the case of convicts has fallen by 6 per cent. as compared with 1903, while the number of prisoners of all classes remaining on the last day of the year stood at the very low figure of 3,731, which is less than any recorded during the last 20 years. The fall in the daily average strength of convicts is due to the large number of sentences of imprisonment for less than three months. The number of juvenile offenders imprisoned diminished from 41 in 1903 to 35. This continued decline is satisfactory, and shows that the orders of the Administration regarding the treatment of juveniles are receiving adequate attention at the hands of Magistrates. The number of persons imprisoned during the year who had been previously convicted fell from 940 to 902, and the proportion of these to the total admissions (18 per cent.) is below the Provincial average in recent years. The proportion of previous offenders to be found in the Berar jails is considerably lower than in the Central Provinces; this distinction is probably to be accounted for by the fact that the demand for labour in Berar is greater and the wages paid to labourers are generally higher. The proportion is also low in the districts of the Central Provinces adjoining Berar, in which also the wages of labour are high. There were eight escapes from different jails during the year, but the absconding prisoners were all recaptured. There were 72 Burmese convicts in the Central Jails at the close of the year; all of these will shortly be re-transferred to Rangoon.

Jail discipline.

64. The number of offences committed by prisoners fell from 9,538 to 8,710. The most noticeable features of the year in respect of discipline are the great decrease in the number of punishments in the Central Jail at Jubbulpore and the large increase in the jails of Berar, especially Akola. The severity of the measures necessary to restore discipline at Jubbulpore was noticed in the Administration Report for 1903-04, and the reduction of punishments during the past year is satisfactory, as indicating that the measures adopted have had the desired effect. The increase of punishments in Berar is remarkable even in the District Jails, while in the Central Jail at Akola the number rose from 160 to 823. Punishments in Berar were formerly singularly few, and there is little doubt that jail life was not made sufficiently deterrent. The increase noticeable during the past year is to be accounted for by the measures that have been found necessary to raise the standard of jail discipline to the required level.

Health.

65. The general health of all jails has been excellent. The admissions to hospital were fewer than usual and the death-rate has fallen from the low figure of 19 per mille in 1903 to 12·67 among convicts, and to 13·41 among under-trial prisoners. The almost entire disappearance of dysentery from the Jubbulpore Jail is a matter on which the Superintendent is to be heartily congratulated. The continued success in keeping plague out of the jails also reflects the greatest credit on all concerned. The death-rate for the year among the free population was 32·06 per mille, and the remarkably low rate quoted above is evidence of the care and attention bestowed not only on the sick, but also on those admitted into jail in indifferent and bad health.

Jail industries.

66. The profits on the working of the various jail factory departments have risen from Rs. 88,685 to Rs. 1,43,760, a result which is satisfactory, considering the fewer numbers employed on manufactures during the year. Over one lakh of this year's profits was earned in the Nagpur Central Jail, at which most of the

form-printing work of the Province is carried out. The profits at the Jubbulpore Central Jail declined owing to the great rise in the price of cotton after the jail had entered into various contracts with the Supply and Transport Department, which had the effect of reducing the margin of profit to a minimum. The earnings of the smaller District Jails were twice as great as in the previous year, and the profits would have been still greater but for the fact that a large portion of the manufactures were required for jail use. The principal industries at District Jails are stone breaking and aloe pounding.

Cost of jail administration.

67. The total cost of guarding and maintaining prisoners showed an increase of Rs. 8,967. The pay of the upper subordinate and warder staff was raised during the year at a cost of Rs. 21,325, and the expenditure on clothing, tools and plant was unusually high. On the other hand, dieting charges decreased by Rs. 22,719. This substantial reduction in the cost of food was due to a smaller daily convict population, to cheaper rates of supply and to the care exercised in making purchases of grain at favourable seasons.

CIVIL JUSTICE. 6.—CIVIL JUSTICE.

[Report on the Judicial Administration (Civil) of the Central Provinces for the year 1904, and Table III of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for the year 1904-05.]

Character of litigation.

68. There was a considerable increase in the Civil litigation of the Central Provinces and a decrease in Berar. Contrary to the experience of the previous year, there has been an increase in the number of suits of small value and a decrease in those of higher value. This is particularly apparent in the Central Provinces, where although the total number of suits instituted was 79,455 as compared with 75,933 in the preceding year, their total value fell from Rs. 1,41,63,851 to Rs. 1,23,11,456.

Pending suits.

69. There was an increase in the number of cases pending at the end of the year in Central Provinces Courts, while in Berar, notwithstanding a decrease in the volume of litigation, no progress has been made in diminishing the arrears; there has even been an increase in the average duration of cases, but little else could be expected with a civil judiciary overburdened with miscellaneous duties. It is hoped that considerable improvement will be effected now that the arrangements for the reorganization of the District Staff and the separation of the Civil and Executive services have been completed.

Execution of decrees.

70. The number of applications for execution is almost exactly the same as last year in the Central Provinces; 56 per cent. were wholly infructuous, 17 per cent. resulted in partial satisfaction of the claim, and 20·4 per cent of the decrees were discharged in full. These figures show but little variation from year to year. In Berar, while the total number of applications fell slightly, the percentage of disposals shows no improvement. Hitherto the Courts have been unable to give sufficiently close supervision to the manner in which the process-serving staff discharge their duty; with the removal of miscellaneous work from the Civil Judicial staff some improvement may be looked for.

Appellate litigation.

71. There is no marked variation in the number of first appeals instituted in the Courts of Divisional and District Judges. The appellate and revisional work that comes before the Judicial Commissioner of the Central Provinces shows a constant tendency to increase, and though an Additional Judicial Commissioner was appointed, the disposals only kept pace with the institutions. Although the number of appeals disposed of in the Court of the Judicial Commissioner was 534 against 280 in 1903, the number of appeals pending at the close of the year had increased from 207 to 224. Except in the Nagpur Division, where the disposal of Civil appeals was commendably prompt, the duration of appeals in the Court of Divisional Judges has increased. The figures for District Appellate Courts call for no special comment. In Berar the amount of pending appellate work expanded during the year to an abnormal extent, owing to a heavy file of sessions cases which impeded the progress of Civil work. However, the appointment of an Additional Judge during the last four months of the year under report had the satisfactory effect of reducing the pending file to 273, a decrease of 160 on the corresponding figure of the preceding year.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

Miscellaneous.

72. Various reforms were introduced during the year. The rules relating to petition-writers were revised by the Judicial Commissioner and the reports show that the revised rules are working well and are appreciated by the Courts, the public and the better class of petition-writers themselves, who now feel that their status is improved by enrolment. A scheme for the formation of separate establishments for District Judges has been prepared and submitted to the Government of India for sanction. Much, however, still remains to be done to improve the administration of Civil Justice in the Central Provinces, while in Berar still more sweeping reforms are necessary. With the separation of the Executive and Judicial branches of the Provincial service, and the strengthening of the subordinate Courts in Berar, both of which have recently been sanctioned, better results may be expected. The removal of miscellaneous duties from judicial officers will also allow of a much more effective control by the Judicial Commissioner.

7.—REGISTRATION.

REGISTRATION.

[Triennial report on the working of the Registration Department in the Central Provinces during the years 1902—04, and Table IX of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1904-05.]

Registrations affecting immovable property.

73. The number of compulsory registrations effected during the year exhibits a marked increase both as regards number and aggregate value. The rise is shared by almost every class of document, and evidence of the steady increase in the value of land is to be found in a comparison of the figures for the past year and for 1902. While the total number of compulsory registrations effected was practically the same in both years, their value has risen from Rs. 81,89,037 to Rs. 96,89,900. A similar advance has occurred in Berar, where the number and total value of the compulsory registrations effected is considerably in excess of the figures for the Central Provinces. The increase in the case of mortgages is greater proportionally than in the case of sales and perpetual leases; this would seem to indicate a general improvement of credit and security. The number of optional registrations of immovable property effected has declined, while the total value of the transactions has risen considerably, particularly in the Central Provinces. Plague is generally regarded as responsible for the decline in the number of optional registrations.

Registrations affecting movable property.

74. Compulsory registrations of movable property exhibit no marked variation from the normal; their number is as a rule quite insignificant. Optional registrations showed a slight increase in number, combined with a decrease in value, both in the Central Provinces and Berar.

Miscellaneous.

75. Refusals to register, which had noticeably increased in the previous year, have declined to their normal level. Appeals have slightly increased, and have been more successful than last year in the Central Provinces. There has been a general rise in the receipts from registrations. Several changes in the administration of the department were introduced during the period under review, including the transfer of the office of District Registrar from the Civil Judge to the Deputy Commissioner, and the reorganization of the Central Provinces Registration staff, involving the substitution of salaried for *ex officio* Sub-Registrars, and the creation of a graded service of Sub-Registrars and their clerks. The substitution of the Deputy Commissioner for the Civil Judge as District Registrar should result in improved administration, through the inspections which the Deputy Commissioner will be able to make of sub-offices on his tours. There has not yet been time for the effects of the reorganization of the staff to make themselves felt, as the change was only sanctioned towards the close of the year, but the substitution of salaried men for schoolmaster Sub-Registrars will undoubtedly improve the general efficiency of the work and will tend to the public convenience. The organization of the Berar staff on the same lines is in contemplation.

8.—MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION.

[Resolution on the working of the Municipal Committees of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1904-05 and Table XVII-1, 2-L, 3-L and 4 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for the year 1904-05.]

Number and constitution of Municipalities.

76. The total number of municipalities at the close of the year 1904-05 was 58, this figure being the same as in the preceding year. There are 46 municipal towns in the Central Provinces, and the Committees contain a certain pro-

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION.

proportion of elected members in all cases except in Pachmarhi, where the Committee consists exclusively of nominated members. There are twelve municipalities in Berar and the right of election is at present exercised in six towns only. The extension of this procedure to the municipal towns of Yeotmal, Ellichpur City and Karanja is under consideration. The towns of Etawah, Itarsi, Katol and Gondia were formally constituted as notified areas under Chapter XI of the Municipal Act towards the close of the year.

Income.

77. The year was one of unusual prosperity throughout the Province, even towns which were visited by plague showing considerable increases of income. After deducting the refunds on account of octroi from the gross receipts and showing only the net receipts as income, the total real income gives an increase of Rs. 1,87,000, or of 11 per cent. as compared with the previous year. The increase occurred under almost every head of receipt, but chiefly under octroi, the net receipts from this source showing an increase of one lakh, more than half of which was contributed by the town of Nagpur. The general increase in octroi income was due to the revision of the octroi schedules in accordance with the orders of the Government of India received in 1903. The rates on certain articles, chiefly luxuries, have been raised, and it has been found possible to reduce the schedules by omitting from them certain articles which produced only a trifling net income. Taxes other than octroi produced an income of Rs. 5,10,000 as compared with Rs. 4,40,000 in the previous year. Water rates and conservancy tax rose by Rs. 40,000, owing largely to changes in the system of assessment, which have been introduced on the basis of rental values. As in the case of District Councils also, there was a general increase in the income derived from pounds. Contributions from Government were larger than in the preceding year, owing chiefly to special grants to Nagpur and to other municipalities for the improvement of their public gardens and parks, while further special contributions were granted for the erection of new school buildings in five important municipal towns. The opening balance at the credit of all municipalities was Rs. 6,53,853, and their total expenditure was Rs. 20,30,287, leaving a credit balance of Rs. 7,19,103 at the close of the year.

Expenditure.

78. The total expenditure for the year exceeded the actual figures for 1903-04 by Rs. 2,95,000, but a large part of this increase is nominal and consists of capital expenditure incurred out of loans. Making allowance for such special items, the net increase in normal expenditure amounted to Rs. 75,000. The charges of general administration and of tax collection show a slight increase, which is in conformity with the expansion of municipal receipts and the development of municipal administration. Expenditure on roads rose from Rs. 1,22,770 to Rs. 2,05,778; the increase is largely due to the expenditure of a sum of Rs. 70,000 in Nagpur on the opening out of new streets and in the acquisition of houses and lands for the relief of certain congested localities. The amounts expended on public Education, Hospitals and Veterinary Dispensaries have also risen. It is satisfactory to note that the expenditure rendered necessary in connection with plague measures amounted to Rs. 21,000 only, as compared with Rs. 75,000 in the previous year.

Financial position.

79. There are eleven municipalities which have raised loans; of these two have borrowed money from private sources only, while the remainder have taken Government loans. The finances of all these towns are in a satisfactory state, although the condition of the Jubbulpore Municipality still requires careful attention. The Bhandara Committee has found some difficulty in making both ends meet, but action has been taken to improve the finances of this small town by an alteration in the system of tax collection and by a revision of the octroi schedule. On the whole the financial position of all municipalities is distinctly good. Taxation in most of them is light and their revenue is expanding beyond all expectations, thus enabling the accumulation of surpluses which will be utilised profitably in the provision of a good water-supply and an adequate drainage system, which are the most pressing needs in many towns.

General.

80. The large majority of the Municipal Committees have done good work during the year and the relations between Government officials and Committees have been excellent. The Municipal members in the larger towns of the Central Provinces continue to maintain a sympathetic and public spirited attitude towards all schemes of municipal improvement. It is worthy of note that the towns in which the people take most real interest in municipal election are those in which the average taxation is highest.

9.—DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS.

[Report on the working of the District Councils and Local Boards for 1904-05, and Table XVIII of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for the year 1904-05.]

Number and Constitution.

81. The number of District Councils and Local Boards in the Province, and the area administered by them, remained unaltered during the year, there being 24 District Councils and 76 Local Boards. The only areas excluded from the operations of local self-government were the Mandla District, the Melghat Taluq of the Ellichpur District and the Zamindaris and the Sironcha Tahsil of the Chanda District. The number of meetings held by all Boards was rather less than in the preceding year, but the average attendance of members rose by 3 per cent., and there has been no deterioration in the quality of the work performed. The voting qualification in the election of mercantile representatives had depended hitherto on the payment of pandhri tax. This tax has now been abolished, and the rules have consequently been revised on the basis of an income qualification. The system under which the mercantile representatives of District Councils were chosen entirely by inhabitants of municipal towns has also been discarded, and in future the commercial representatives on the Councils will be elected from among the mercantile members of the various Local Boards, while the representatives at present chosen by municipal residents will in future be able to sit only as nominated members. This amendment of the rules involves a considerable alteration in the constitution of several of the District Councils.

Income.

82. Excluding Account heads, the total income of all Boards amounted to Rs. 19,05,000 as compared with Rs. 16,28,000 in the previous year. The increase in the Central Provinces amounted to Rs. 83,000, and was derived chiefly from local rates and from pounds. The former source of income benefited by the full collections rendered possible by a prosperous year, while the large increase of Rs. 45,000 under Pounds was due to the transfer of the Zamindari pounds in the Chhattisgarh Divisions to the care of Local Boards, to a prevailing scarcity of fodder and to the extension of cultivation, which led to an increase in the number of cattle impounded. The increase for Berar was Rs. 1,94,000, but a portion of this was the result of certain contributions from Imperial revenues being shown as direct receipts, instead of being accounted for by deduction from the expenditure, and the real increase was Rs. 1,20,000. The introduction of revised land revenue settlements enhanced the local road and education cesses by Rs. 21,000, while the surplus jaglia cess available for credit to the Boards after payment of all expenses rose by Rs. 69,000. Pounds and bazar cess also yielded a large income. In spite of the increase in the income of the Boards, the incidence of taxation in the Central Provinces per head of population did not rise perceptibly, and stood at ·75 of an anna, while in Berar the incidence rose by one pie to 2 annas 10 pies per head. The incidence of total income fell in the Central Provinces from 2 annas per head to 1 anna 11 pies, owing to the exclusion from the calculation of the figures under Account heads, while in Berar the incidence rose to 5 annas 4 pies.

Expenditure.

83. The total expenditure of Boards in the Central Provinces increased by Rs. 43,000. Cattle pound charges were heavier than in the previous year, partly owing to the causes already indicated and partly to the opening of new pounds, while there were also increases under Education, Hospitals and Dispensaries, Sanitation and Veterinary charges. The actual net increase in the expenditure of Berar Boards, excluding the nominal increase consequent on the adjustment of contributions from Imperial revenues, amounted to Rs. 1,14,000. The surplus unspent balances in the Berar districts are still very large, and although a considerable increase, amounting to over a lakh of rupees, occurred in the expenditure on Civil Works, most Boards were apparently unable to work up to their estimates, owing to the difficulty experienced in obtaining the services of competent overseers for the execution of important projects. All Boards closed the year in a solvent financial position except Bhandara, where rigid economy had to be practised. The total expenditure of all Boards, excluding Account heads, was Rs. 17,94,000 against Rs. 15,83,000 in the previous year.

DISTRICT COUNCILS, &c.

General.

84. Apart from financial aspects the administration of local affairs has been generally satisfactory, though this result has been attained rather through official than through local and private action. In educational matters, such as the supervision of schools and the construction of school buildings, private members are always ready to give assistance; but otherwise the people at large are still somewhat apathetic in their attitude towards local self-government. The progress in the art of self-government in such a backward tract as the Central Provinces must always be slow, but it is an encouraging sign that the number of gentlemen who are found ready to devote their time and interest to the administration of local affairs is increasing in every district.

MILITARY.

10.—MILITARY (VOLUNTEERING).

Number of active Corps.

85. The Berar Volunteer Rifles were amalgamated with the Nagpur Volunteer Rifles during the year, and the only two Volunteer Corps now in these Provinces are the Nagpur Rifles and the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Rifles.

The Nagpur Volunteer Rifles.

86. The enrolled strength of the former Corps on the 31st March 1904 was 618, of whom 24 were commissioned officers. Of this total figure 541 were extra-efficient, 64 efficient, and 13 non-efficient. The number of marksmen was 153 as against 211 last year, but the alteration of the course and consequent increase in the number of points qualifying for marksmanship, accounts for the decrease. The financial position of the Corps is satisfactory, the balance in hand at the close of the year being Rs. 4,445. A camp-of-exercise was held in January 1905, and 6 officers and 332 men attended the camp and general inspection.

The Bengal-Nagpur Railway Rifles.

87. This Corps is divided into two battalions, the first, which is under the administrative control of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, having its head-quarters at Khargpur in Bengal, and the second at Nagpur. The total enrolled strength of the second battalion on the 31st March 1905 was 1,193, including 33 commissioned officers. Only 22 members of the Corps failed to qualify as efficients and extra-efficients. The percentage of marksmen shows a considerable decrease for the reason already indicated. The financial position was satisfactory. During the month of January 1905 both the battalions attended a camp-of-exercise held at Khargpur; 9 officers and 644 non-commissioned officers and men were present, a number which had not been reached by any camp held since the formation of the Corps.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

1.—AGRICULTURE.

AGRICULTURE.

[Reports on the working of the Department of Agriculture and of the Civil Veterinary Department for the year ending the 31st March 1905; also Volume of Agricultural Statistics of India, Part I, for 1904-05.]

General.

88. The year under report was the last in which the Department of Agriculture was administered by the officer who holds the post of Commissioner of Settlements and Director of Land Records. The work of the Department has been largely developed during the past few years, and agricultural experiments on a comprehensive scale are being undertaken all over the Province. Since the close of the year a separate Director of Agriculture has been appointed, and the liberal provision of funds which has been made by the Imperial Government will permit of the work of the Department being largely expanded in the future.

Agricultural education.

89. Agricultural education in its higher branches is at present in a state of transition, but the work of the past year has shown steady progress and development on the lines hitherto followed. The Nagpur School, even with its present equipment, does useful and valuable work; arrangements are now being carried out under which it will eventually become a college, teaching up to the highest standard and furnishing a supply of men equipped with scientific and practical knowledge, whose influence on the future progress of agriculture in these Provinces will be very marked.

The work of the English classes gave good results in the examination test, but there is still room for improvement in the quality of the teaching. The normal classes for schoolmasters continue to form a valuable adjunct to the Agricultural School. They do not aim primarily at imparting detailed technical knowledge, the main object being to train teachers to interest their pupils in agriculture and in the natural objects around them, and to make them realize that their education in school is closely connected with their future avocation.

The class for young malguzars is now in the third year of its existence, and numbered only 20 in the past year. It appears however to be already bearing fruit, as reports show that several of the lads who attended the class in previous years are practising improved methods of cultivation themselves, and are inducing their neighbours to follow their example.

The *Agricultural Gazette* shows a very slight falling off in the number of subscribers. It is a useful medium for the dissemination of agricultural knowledge, but the articles are at present somewhat too lengthy and might be made brighter and more interesting in tone. It is at present issued in Hindi only, but steps are being taken to publish an English edition also. A set of brochures was issued during the year describing the methods of cultivation of the principal seeds distributed through Agricultural Associations.

Agricultural experiments.

90. The experiments at the three farms at Powarkhera, Labandih and Nagpur were conducted on practical lines. At Powarkhera, where the new farm is not in full working order, experiments were made as to the value of embanking fields and the methods of eradicating *kans* grass—both important matters in the Nerbudda Valley country, where the farm is situated. The Labandih Farm at Raipur is devoted chiefly to rice cultivation, rice being the staple produce of Chhattisgarh. The Nagpur Experimental Farm continues to do useful work, particularly in the distribution of good seed. No very definite success has so far attended the efforts to produce a rust-resisting wheat, but the experiments in improving the staple of indigenous varieties of cotton by hybridization are very interesting, and promise to be more successful than the introduction of exotic varieties. Samples of tree cotton have also been collected with a view to growing the better varieties on the farm, and, if possible, improving them. The three

cattle-breeding farms are gradually increasing their stocks, which have been carefully weeded of bad specimens. The results at the farm near Nagpur promise to be very satisfactory, and the existence there of a pure-bred herd of a well-known local breed should have a most beneficial effect in improving the cattle of the southern districts and in stimulating the interest which the people already feel in this subject. The object underlying the various experiments made has been the improvement of the indigenous article rather than the acclimatization of foreign varieties.

Agricultural demonstration and enquiry.

91. The demonstration of juar and cotton cultivation on the Nagpur methods was continued in the Bilaspur and Raipur districts of Chhattisgarh. The results were very successful on well drained soil, but failed in some other cases owing to water-logging. A prolonged experience of local conditions is a necessary preliminary to the successful introduction of these crops. The western Chhattisgarh plains used to grow cotton extensively fifty years ago, though the cultivation was then unskilful, and the experiments now being made will well repay perseverance. To a small extent local cultivators are already endeavouring to imitate our methods. Demonstrations in improved methods of cultivating various autumn crops have also been continued in Hoshangabad. Here also it is satisfactory to notice that several cultivators in the west of the district are following the example set them. An ensilage demonstration was also conducted in the same tract, but, though one or two enlightened malguzars have commenced to make ensilage on their own account, the practice does not seem to be generally appreciated by the mass of cultivators. The advantages of a fodder cutting and of a winnowing machine were exhibited throughout Berar and in eight districts of the Central Provinces in such a way that every important juari district of the two Provinces had an opportunity of viewing their working. The result was the sale of 37 machines. The Nagpur Experimental Farm sold 142 agricultural implements and machines of various kinds, and work in this direction is making satisfactory progress. Other demonstrations of considerable practical interest were the application of sewage as manure and the pickling of juar seed with sulphate of copper as a preventive against rust. The manuring experiment on the Meagher system is especially successful in the vicinity of the southern municipal towns, where the lands manured are freely taken up by cultivators on rents that tend to increase every year.

District Associations.

92. Every district now possesses its own Agricultural Association. The Associations have in many cases done useful experimental work, and are specially valuable as furnishing a means for bringing the leading agricultural element of the Provinces into direct communication and sympathy with the officers of the Agricultural Department.

The Veterinary Department.

93. Two new Veterinary Inspectors were appointed during the year and nine new dispensaries opened. There are now 18 dispensaries in the Central Provinces and 22 in Berar. Rinderpest was unusually prevalent among cattle in the south of the Provinces. The progress of inoculation is rapid and the work has more than doubled in the past year. The results were so satisfactory that in several places whole villages have expressed their willingness to have their animals inoculated should further outbreaks of the disease take place. The amount of touring performed by the various assistants has again increased, and the work of the Department in every direction exhibits considerable progress.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

2.—WEATHER AND CROPS.

[Season and Crop Report of the Central Provinces for the year 1904-05; Volume of Agricultural Statistics of India, Part I, 1904-05.]

Rainfall.

94. The average rainfall in the Central Provinces was only 37·54, or nearly twelve inches below the average of the last 36 years, while in Berar it was between three and four inches in defect of the normal.

The monsoon broke unusually early and gave good rain early in June over the greater portion of the Provinces. Up till the middle of July the weather remained fairly seasonable, but afterwards the western monsoon current became very weak and the rainfall was fitful and local except in Chhattisgarh and the Vindhyan

districts. The monsoon from the East Coast fortunately came to the rescue in the second week in September and gave ample rain up to the middle of October over most areas. The cold weather rains were unusually favourable, as most districts received good showers in the months of January, February and March. In no part of the Provinces, however, was the monsoon entirely satisfactory. Chhattisgarh and the Vindhyan districts suffered at different times from excessive and deficient rain, and in the rice villages of the Nagpur Division a considerable portion of the rice crop was lost. The juar and cotton countries in the south of the Provinces again fared best, as has so frequently been the case during the past decade, but even this part gave cause for anxiety at one period of the year.

Character of the season.

95. Chhattisgarh, which contributes 71 per cent. of the Provincial rice area, experienced a fairly normal season and the crop reaped was but little short of an average annual yield. In the rice districts of the Waingunga Valley, comprising a large portion of the Nagpur Division, a strong and continuous monsoon is essential, as by far the greater part of the crop is transplanted. The long break in the middle of the rains proved fatal to transplanting operations, and the crop was deficient both as regards area and outturn. Juar also suffered by reason of the capricious nature of the rainfall, and considerable damage was inflicted by locusts in parts of several districts. The season was less unfavourable to cotton than to other autumn crops, and the districts where it covers a large area experienced a prosperous year. The season during the early months of 1905 was peculiarly disappointing. The winter rains were exceptionally favourable and the spring crop of wheat especially gave every promise of an excellent harvest. The month of February, however, brought a frost, almost unprecedented in severity, which reduced the eventual wheat outturn to a considerable extent in most districts, while gram and linseed suffered to an even greater degree. The promise of the early part of the season was fully realized only in the wheat country of Bilaspur, Raipur and Betul.

Yield of the autumn (kharif) crops.

96. *Rice.*—The area under rice showed an increase of 451,000 acres, in which all the important rice districts shared. The actual advance is not so great as it appears, as 75 per cent of the total increase is contributed by the two districts of Raipur and Bilaspur, where in the previous year rice cultivators were discouraged by a prophecy, which obtained almost universal credence, that the monsoon rains of 1903 were doomed to failure.

There has been a considerable increase in the area of transplanted rice, at the expense of the broadcasted crop, in spite of the unfavourable season. This was due to the fact that the excellent crop of the preceding year had enabled tenants to follow the more expensive method of cultivation in a larger area. The value of the rice crop reaped was necessarily reduced by the deficient rainfall, and amounted to only 76 per cent. of the normal outturn over the whole Province.

Cotton.—The cultivation of cotton has continued to expand both in the Central Provinces and in Berar, and the total increase in the cotton area over both Provinces amounted to 442,372 acres. The average yield of the crop was 17 per cent. above the normal in the Central Provinces and very little below it in Berar.

With a record area and a good crop exports have far exceeded any figure yet reached, and the year was one of marked advance for cotton growers.

Til.—The character of the season was not favourable for the sowings of til and the area under this crop declined everywhere except in Chhattisgarh. The total outturn also was only 75 per cent. The crop is of no importance in Berar.

Juar.—The juar area has fallen by 57,000 acres. In Berar the crop is being displaced to some extent by the increasing popularity of cotton, and in the northern districts of the Central Provinces the improving condition of the cultivators has enabled them to substitute for juar the more valuable spring crops. The actual outturn of juar was affected, as already explained, not only by the character of the rainfall, but also by the devastation caused by locusts, and the value of the crop was 25 per cent. below normal.

Kodo-Kutki.—The smaller millets, kodo and kutki, gave a yield of 86 per cent.

The total kharif area of the Central Provinces shows an increase of 218,000 acres; this is confined entirely to the most valuable staples, rice and cotton, and is accompanied by a marked decrease in the less valuable crops in those localities where they are superfluous.

Yield of the spring (rabi) crops.

97. The area under spring crops has increased in the Central Provinces by 195,000 acres, while in Berar it has decreased by 160,000 acres. The advance is entirely confined to the north and east of the Province, and is remarkable for the progress shown in the districts of the Chhattisgarh Division, which contribute nearly three-quarters of the net total increase. In the Nagpur and Nerbudda Divisions the rabi area has declined before the rapid advance of cotton. The decrease manifested in Berar is to be attributed in part to the same cause; but it is also in some degree a return to normal conditions, as the area under spring crops was exceptionally large in the preceding year owing to the failure of juar.

Wheat.—The area placed under wheat and mixed wheat and gram amounted to 3,249,816 acres, and exceeded last year's figures by 160,000 acres. The general outturn was 80 per cent. of the normal.

Linseed.—The area under linseed remained unchanged in the Central Provinces and declined considerably in Berar, where the area sown with cotton has been driving out this crop for some years. The increase which occurred in 1903-04 was quite abnormal and was entirely due to seasonal causes, which raised the area temporarily by 50,000 acres above the average. The crop reaped was only moderate, but it sold exceedingly well after harvest, and the exports were larger than usual.

HORTICULTURE.

3.—HORTICULTURE.

[Report on the management of the Provincial and District Gardens in the Central Provinces for the year 1904-05.]

Provincial Gardens.

98. The Provincial gardens include the Maharaj Bagh, Telinkheri and Government House gardens at Nagpur, and the Public and Residency gardens at Pachmarhi. The year was one of light rainfall, but the distribution was fairly good, and the season was on the whole favourable, except in Pachmarhi, where an exceptionally severe frost interfered greatly with the success of the gardens. The fruit and vegetable crops were almost ruined, though in some cases a fairly good second crop was obtained. The various gardens in Nagpur have now the advantage of being under a trained Superintendent from Kew, who was appointed towards the close of the year. The orange plantation in the Maharaj Bagh gave a good crop, and flowers and European vegetables did fairly well. The financial results of the management of these gardens have been satisfactory.

District Gardens.

99. There was a slight fall in the amount of the receipts from the various District gardens, and considering how unfavourable the season was in several districts, it is a matter for satisfaction that the decrease was not larger. All districts, except Sambalpur, suffered from the deficient rainfall, and the District gardens in the north of the Province received further damage from frost. The most successful gardens were those of Balaghat, Chhindwara and Wardha, but the year on the whole was not particularly successful. Experiments as a rule fared badly; they were generally made with a view to the production of acclimatised seeds of flowers and vegetables on the basis followed in previous years.

Court of Wards Gardens.

100. Court of Wards gardens were maintained in several estates in the districts of Chanda, Hoshangabad and Wardha. The Wardha gardens, though only recently opened, already show fair sales of produce. The Ahiri Estate garden in Chanda was well managed, and excellent progress was made in increasing and distributing the stock of seeds and plants. Progress generally has been very small, but there has been little if any retrogression in spite of an abnormally unfavourable year.

4.—FORESTS.

[Report on the Forest Administration of the Northern, Southern and Berar Circles, Central Provinces, for the year ending 30th June 1905.]

Forest areas.

101. The total area of the State forests of the Central Provinces and Berar was 22,743 square miles, against 22,675 in the previous year. The increase of 68 square miles is merely nominal, and is due entirely to the recalculation of areas effected by forest survey in the various Forest Divisions. No changes of any importance took place during the period now under review, but the territorial limits of the three Forest Circles have been considerably altered with effect from the close of the year, by the transfer of the Forest Divisions of Seoni and Chhindwara from the Southern to the Northern Circle, and of the Nagpur-Wardha Division from the Southern Circle to Berar, while the Nimar Forest Division, which was previously included in the Northern Circle, will now form part of the Berar Circle.

Demarcation and Forest Surveys.

102. Considerable progress was made with the demarcation of boundaries and with the repairs to existing boundary marks. Repairs were executed over a total length of 21,243 miles, most of the work being in the Northern and Southern Circles of the Central Provinces. The expenditure on the boundaries repaired amounted to Rs. 16,620. The demarcation of new boundaries was chiefly confined to the Berar Circle, in which 159 miles of permanent demarcation was accomplished at a cost of Rs. 2,812. There were no survey operations in the Northern and Southern Circles during the year as the work has already been completed, and the operations of the Forest Survey of India were confined to the Berar Circle. The preliminary traversing and triangulation of 342 square miles of reserves in Basim was completed and 816 square miles remain to be surveyed. The local Forest Department carried out a survey of 83 miles of coupes in the Amraoti Division.

Working Plans.

103. No new working plans were sanctioned in any of the three Circles during the year. In the Southern Circle much progress was made with the compilation of a working plan for 141 square miles of sâl forest in the Raigarh Range of the Balaghat Division, and the preliminary report regarding it has been submitted and approved. A working plan for 96 square miles of sâl forest in the Mandla Division of the Northern Circle has also been submitted; and similar plans regarding further areas of 208 square miles in Mandla and 721 square miles in Saugor are in course of preparation. In the remaining divisions of these Circles regular sanctioned working-plans are already in existence, and these were as far as possible adhered to, although in the Southern Circle certain deviations from the approved plan were found necessary in a few localities, while in the Northern Circle the prescriptions of the sanctioned plan over several large areas have been held in abeyance pending the re-classification of the forests to which they refer. No plans were under preparation in the Berar Circle owing to the fact that arrangements for the reconstitution of the various Forest Divisions were pending throughout the year; and the compilation of any working-plans would therefore have been useless.

Communications.

104. In the three Circles of the Provinces altogether 171 miles of new roads were constructed at a cost of Rs. 9,433, and repairs were executed over 2,810 miles of existing roads at a cost of Rs. 14,660. Both departments of work show an increase over last year's figures which is satisfactory, as the importance of opening up the forests by good export roads cannot be over-rated. A survey of 23 miles was completed over the proposed tramway road which is to connect the important forests of Raigarh and Baihar in the Balaghat District with the railway. The Allapilli monorail continues to work satisfactorily, and allowing $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as the interest on the capital invested, the net profit on the capital for the past year comes to 33 per cent. as compared with 5·2 per cent. in the year previous.

Protection of Forests.

105. In the Berar Circle the number of forest offences reported increased by 198, mainly under the head of illicit cattle pasture. This is partly due to the fact that such cases were formerly not treated as offences in

several Divisions, but it is also the case that the scarcity of fodder which has prevailed in recent years has offered special temptations to trespassers. The figures for the remaining two circles call for no remark. A slight decrease in the Northern Circle is almost counterbalanced by a similar increase in the Southern Circle. There has been a considerable fall in the number of grazing cases in most of the Northern Divisions, and no class of offence was especially prominent. Taken as a whole the figures for the Provinces are practically identical with the average number of reported offences for the past three years.

Fire Protection

106. Two classes of fire protection are in force in the Northern and Southern Circles; these are known respectively as "systematic" and "partial" protection. Under the former system both external and internal fire lines are burnt, and a staff of fire-watchers is engaged during the hot weather to keep the external lines clear of inflammable material and to watch for any indication of forest fires. In areas under partial protection only external lines are burnt and no special staff is employed. In both Circles the results achieved were an improvement on the figures for the previous year. In the Southern Circle 2,948½ square miles were under systematic protection, being a net increase of 119 square miles, and 99·4 per cent. of this area was successfully protected at a cost of Rs. 11-11-10 per square mile. The total area under partial protection was 1,659 square miles and the percentage of success was 95·1, at a cost of Rs. 1-9-4 per square mile. In the Northern Circle 2,146 square miles were under systematic protection as compared with 1,804 square miles in the preceding year, and the operations were successful over all but 41 square miles. The cost of protection per mile fell from Rs. 9-11-1 to Rs. 9-3-6. As regards the area under partial protection, the proportion of failure rose slightly, owing to the occurrence of two large fires, one of which destroyed an area of 106 square miles in the Betul District. The area under protection in Berar was 2,825 square miles, of which 99 per cent. was successfully protected. The general results are satisfactory throughout the Provinces.

Exploitation and management.

107. No change has been made in the existing systems of exploiting major forest produce, which still consist in selection and improvement fellings and in picing. Unregulated fellings, partly under the commutation system and partly by ordinary purchasers, were also permitted in areas outside the authorised felling series. Selection fellings were carried out only in the Allapilli forests of South Chanda, in Balaghat and in Mandla over an area of 5,623 acres. The great bulk of the work accomplished took the form of improvement and coppice fellings as in the previous year; the total area thus exploited in the Central Provinces being 124 square miles, while in Berar similar operations were conducted over an area of 162 square miles. The right of collecting the various kinds of minor forest produce is generally leased out to purchasers over defined areas for specified periods of time, and departmental operations are carried out only when lessees fail to come forward. Exploitation by departmental agency in the Central Provinces is practically confined to the extraction of major produce. The most important of the various operations conducted during the year were the supply of timber to the Ordnance Department for the Jubbulpore Gun Carriage Factory and the sleeper-cutting operations in Balaghat. Altogether 1,336,963 cubic feet of timber were extracted departmentally in the Southern Circle, and 89,309 cubic feet in the Northern Circle, as compared with the respective outturns of 782,602 feet and 63,014 feet in the previous year. The total amount of timber and fuel removed by purchasers in the two circles of the Central Provinces was 10,339,680 cubic feet against a quantity of 9,510,986 cubic feet in 1903-04.

In Berar, only 6 per cent. of the estimated total outturn of timber and fuel was exploited by Government agency, and the work carried out was of ordinary character. The value of the major and minor produce thus dealt with was Rs. 29,805, while the material removed by purchasers yielded a revenue of Rs. 8,64,331.

Financial results.

108. The financial results of the year's work are highly satisfactory. In each of the three Circles the surplus in hand at the close of the year exceeded the surplus remaining at the close of the preceding year, and was

greatly in excess of the previous quinquennial average. The total receipts actually derived from the sale of produce throughout the Provinces amounted to Rs. 18,82,716, while the charges on account of management and control were Rs. 12,26,649. The net profits of the year yielded a sum of Rs. 6,56,067 to the Government revenues. The Berar Circle was by far the most remunerative, as it produced a revenue of Rs. 6,86,957 and cost only Rs. 2,84,496. In the two Circles of the Central Provinces receipts and charges approximate more closely, and gross receipts of Rs. 6,18,404 in the Northern Circle and Rs. 5,77,355 in the Southern Circle yielded only net profits of Rs. 1,84,968 and Rs. 65,674. The improved economic conditions prevailing during the past two years have led to a general expansion of the demand for forest produce of every description.

5.—MINES AND QUARRIES. MINES AND QUARRIES.

[Report on the working of the Indian Mines Act in the Central Provinces for the calendar year 1904.]

Mines under the Indian Mines Act.

109. There are three coal mines at work in the Central Provinces, situated respectively at Warora and Ballarpur in the Chanda District and at Mohpani in Narsinghpur. The total output from these mines was 138,026 tons, valued at rather more than six and-a-half lakhs of rupees. The total yield shows a decrease of about 22,000 tons on the previous year's returns. The total number of workers employed in coal mining was 1,765, of whom 1,547 were men; the underground miners numbered 702. No children were employed in these mines. The Warora Colliery will probably close after two or three years, but the extensive deposits at Ballarpur, further to the south, are being opened up. Labour is said to be scarce at the Mohpani mine, and a scheme is under consideration for importing labour from outside. Two fatal accidents occurred at the Warora Colliery, both of which were due to the carelessness of the labourers concerned. Prospecting operations have been carried on in the Pench Valley field of the Chhindwara District, where very large supplies of coal are available, and it is understood that a company to work the mines is in process of formation. The Satpura Railway has now opened a line to Chhindwara, and the production of coal in this part of the country is likely to be extensive, as it is conveniently situated in regard to the various mills in the Nagpur country and Berar.

Manganese mining.

110. The rapid development of manganese ore mining is at present the most conspicuous feature in the mineral industry of the Central Provinces. There are now at work 15 mines within the definition of the Mines Act, as well as shallow workings in several places which do not at present find a place in the mining returns. The yield of these mines is officially stated at 85,034 tons, but these figures do not include the output from shallow workings, which are sometimes of considerable importance. The total value of the ore extracted was nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees. The most important mines at present working are situated near Ramtek in the Nagpur District, but work is in progress in Bhandara and Balaghat and manganese has also been found in the Chhindwara District. The wages paid are generally good and the relations between employers and labourers are satisfactory. There were no prosecutions under the Act during the year.

Miscellaneous.

111. At Murwara in the Jubbulpore District there are 16 limestone quarries and one mine for fuller's earth. The increase in the output of iron ore in Saugor, Jubbulpore and Mandla Districts shows that the industry is gradually developing. The provincial outturn is estimated at nearly 3,000 tons. Deposits of bauxite have been found in Balaghat, which promise to be of much economic value.

Commercial activity.

112. The returns showing the number of applications for prospecting licenses show that the mineral resources of the Central Provinces are claiming the attention of the commercial public in an ever-increasing degree. Thirty-four prospecting licenses were granted against 21 in the previous year, and investigations are being pushed in all directions.

6.—MANUFACTURES. MANUFACTURES.

[Provincial Resolution on the working of the Factories Act in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1904; also Table XIX-2—5 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1904-05.]

Number of factories.

113. The total number of factories in 1904 existing within the meaning of the Factories Act was 155 as compared with the total of 391 returned in the preceding year. The decrease is purely nominal. The figures reported in

previous years included a large number of cotton ginning and pressing factories which never worked for four months in the whole of the year, and which are therefore not "factories" within the scope of the Act. Had the statements been compiled on the former system the number of factories actually shown would have been considerably greater than in 1904.

Employes.

114. While the total number of operatives shows a natural decrease, in consequence of the exclusion of so many establishments from the factory returns, it is noteworthy that the number of children is only slightly less than in 1903. This is satisfactory, as indicating that few children are employed in the factories now excluded, and that in this respect, at any rate, there is the less need for bringing them under inspection.

Health.

115. As a rule, the various factories are well ventilated and their sanitary arrangements and water-supply are sufficient. The general health of the employés has been good and it has been noticed that though the workers in ginning and pressing factories are peculiarly liable to respiratory diseases, those in the Central Provinces have been found comparatively free from such trouble. The number of accidents which occurred during the year was 94 as against 113 in 1903. Four of these ended fatally, and three of them were due to the machinery. It would seem that many accidents could be prevented if the guards to machinery were fixed and not removable, and proposals to this effect are being submitted for expert advice; the subject is one that demands careful consideration in the interests of workers.

Wages.

116. The average rate of wages for unskilled labour has risen during the year. In Nagpur a male labourer can now earn 5 annas and a female 3 annas a day as compared with 4 annas and $2\frac{1}{2}$ in the previous year, while the average rate in Berar is the same as in Nagpur. In other districts in the Central Provinces the cost of living is less, and the rate of wages is rather lower than in Nagpur, but the reports show that labour is on the whole well protected in all districts where factories exist.

Supervision.

117. All factories, with the exception of six only recently started, were inspected during the year. Results were satisfactory and the requirements of the law are generally observed. There were four convictions during the year under Section 15 of the Factories Act, one being the case of the manager of a Wardha factory who had failed to report a fatal accident.

7.—TRADE.

TRADE.

[Report on the rail-borne traffic of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31st March 1905. Also Accounts of the trade carried by rail and River in India for the year 1904-05.]

Character of the crops.

118. The trade of this Province depends immediately on the prosperity of its agriculture. The crops which most directly influenced the trade of the past year were the spring and the autumn crops of 1904. The area under tillage had increased in respect of both crops, and the increment was more than sufficient to counteract the retarding influence of a somewhat disappointing season. The spring crop germinated successfully, and a bumper outturn was confidently expected; but no rain fell in January, and subsequent showers were too late to benefit the land. The result was the conversion of a very promising crop into one slightly below the normal. The unsatisfactory character of the autumn monsoon has already been described, and the comparative failure of the rains considerably reduced the outturn of juar, rice and oilseeds. Cotton yielded a fair crop, and as the area cultivated had increased by nearly half a million acres, the exports were considerably in advance of previous records, exceeding those of the preceding year by 20 per cent. The material increase in the area under rice was contributed chiefly by the Raipur and Bilaspur Districts, and the crop in this part of the country fortunately yielded a normal outturn: the exports of this staple were consequently increased by 64 per cent. The expansion of the area under cultivation also led to an increase in the exports of wheat, gram and linseed. Although only a small portion of the spring crop of 1905 actually came to market during the period with which this report deals, the trade of the last two months of the year was affected by the severe frost, which damaged the most important spring crops in a few districts of the Central Provinces and over the whole of Northern India.

Prices.

119. The prices of all food-grains, except juar, exhibit a remarkable fall, even in comparison with the generally low prices prevailing in the previous year, and they remained almost stationary during the last nine months of the year. Among products other than food-grains the most noticeable feature of the year was the fluctuation exhibited in the cotton market. The price of this staple was stationary at Rs. 22-12-0 during the first half of the year, or Rs. 3 per maund above the average of the previous year; in the third quarter it fell to Rs. 18-8-0, and at the close of the year it stood as low as Rs. 15-4-0 per maund. This rapid decline in price was due to the effect of the slump in the American market on the value of Indian cotton.

Total traffic of the year.

120. The total volume of trade was greater by $1\frac{1}{3}$ million maunds than in the previous year, and its total value increased by about $1\frac{1}{4}$ crores of rupees. Some part of the increase in value is due to the fact that the figure given is the result of striking an average valuation on the combined scale of rates for the Central Provinces and for Berar, the scale for the latter country being somewhat higher for most commodities. The volume of trade, however, stands at a high figure, and the year has been a satisfactory one, particularly so in respect of the traffic in agricultural produce. Excluding manganese, the traffic in which was affected by special causes, the bulk of imports in the Central Provinces increased by $1\frac{1}{2}$ million maunds, and exports by $3\frac{1}{3}$ million maunds. In Berar imports decreased by 10 per cent., while exports increased by 37 per cent., and the balance of trade in favour of the combined Provinces was more than 7 crores.

Imports.

121. The total weight of the import trade shows an increase of 10 per cent. on the figures recorded for 1903-04. About two-thirds of this increase, or nearly one million maunds, falls under the head of railway plant and rolling stock, owing to the extension of railway construction. An addition of $91\frac{1}{4}$ miles was made to the railway system of the Provinces during the year by the construction of a branch of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway from Seoni to Chhindwara and from Nainpur to Bargi. The extension of the cotton industry led to an increased demand for coal and coke on the part of the ginning mills and presses of Berar, and imports under this head increased by 397,000 maunds. With an expanded area under food crops, the imports of gram and pulse have again fallen, and the increase in the resources of the people is attested by the advancing importation of sugar, spices and European piece-goods. Imports of salt have increased by 168,000 maunds over the figure for 1903-04, which was itself a record; the continued larger consumption is no doubt the result of the reduction of the duty on salt from Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 2 per maund.

Exports.

122. The total weight of exports fell by 114,000 maunds, but this is entirely due to a large decrease of 5 million maunds in the exports of metals, chiefly manganese ore. This fact has no real significance, as exports of manganese were suspended to a great extent during the first three quarters of the year, pending the conversion of a leading private mining concern into a limited company, and a brisk rise took place in the exports during the last quarter, which has continued into the first quarter of 1905-06. Leaving this item aside, the exports for the year under review are in excess of those for 1903-04, although the trade of the latter year had itself beaten all previous records. There have been marked increases in the exports of rice (64·8 per cent.), gram, pulse and oilseeds. Exports of the last named commodity amounted to 6 million maunds—a figure which is 140 per cent. higher than the normal of $2\frac{1}{2}$ millions. Exports of wheat have increased by nearly 100,000 maunds in spite of the fact that this crop was affected by the absence of winter rains. The continued advance in the export of raw cotton has already been noticed, the actual figures for the year being 785,866 maunds in excess of the amount exported in the preceding year. The greater part of the traffic occurred during the cold weather, when prices were at an extremely low level compared with the year previous, and the value of the cotton exported decreased accordingly by $9\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. The full effect upon trade of the large cotton crop actually reaped was not apparent during the period with which this report deals, because cultivators to some extent, and dealers in particular, held up a larger part of their stock than usual until the hot weather, in expectation of an improvement in prices. Among other heads of export trade may be noted the increase in the amount of unwrought timber despatched to other parts of India,

and the large traffic in hay, straw and grass fodder. The latter is quite a new trade, the normal export until two years ago having been quite small. The principal buyers of the various kinds of fodder are found in the Punjab, Rajputana and Central India.

PUBLIC WORKS.

8.—PUBLIC WORKS.

[Finance Accounts of the Buildings and Roads Branch of the Public Works Department, Central Provinces, for 1904-05, also Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India for 1904-05.]

IMPERIAL WORKS.

Public Works. 123. No Imperial works of any special importance were undertaken during the year. On the Military side, quarters were constructed at Dongargarh for the Sergeant-Instructor, Bengal-Nagpur Railway Volunteers, at a cost of Rs. 6,200. The chief object of expenditure under the head of Civil Works was the construction of a new Telegraph Office at Khamgaon. Over Rs. 34,000 were also spent on the bore-holes of the Ballarpur coalfields.

PROVINCIAL WORKS.

124. The total expenditure on Provincial works of all kinds amounted to Rs. 33 lakhs, of which 16 lakhs were spent on original works and the remainder in repairs and establishment. The following were the principal objects of expenditure.

Forest Buildings. 125. The new Forest Office at Seoni was completed during the year. Among new works taken in hand, the principal items are a new Forest Office at Mandla, an office for the Conservator of Forests at Nagpur and the conversion of the old Circuit House at Balaghat into a Forest Divisional Office.

Administration, Treasury and Currency Buildings. 126. The extension to the Comptroller's office, at Nagpur, commenced in the previous year, was practically completed, and materials were collected for a second extension on the north side of the buildings.

Land Revenue Buildings. 127. The construction of new Tahsili buildings at Betul, Balaghat, Bemetara, Baloda-Bazar, Baloda, Mahasamund, Jubbulpore, Sehora and Garchiroli was taken in hand, and the total amount spent on them during the year was Rs. 43,127. Certain additions and alterations to the Tahsili building at Dhamtari were also undertaken; and materials were collected for the erection of Tahsil offices at Warora and Brahmapuri. The re-roofing of the Tahsili at Pandharkowra was carried out at a cost of Rs. 10,828.

Secretariat Offices and Residences. 128. Materials were collected for the new Secretariat Offices at Nagpur, and a commencement was made with the actual building. The total expenditure incurred during the year was close upon one lakh.

Educational. 129. The Training Institute at Jubbulpore, commenced in 1903, was completed at a cost of Rs. 46,494. A Female Normal School is also under construction at the same place. Additional buildings were provided for Anglo-Vernacular Schools at Karanja, Murtizapur and Daryapur in Berar, and the new school at Malkapur was completed. About Rs. 20,000 was expended to provide hostels and boarding-houses for students in various schools.

Circuit-houses. 130. The office of the Inspector-General of Police at Amraoti was converted into a Circuit-house during the year, and the building formerly occupied by the Police Inspector was utilized in the construction of a Circuit-house at Chhindwara. The new Circuit-house at Balaghat was practically completed. The expenditure in connection with these buildings was Rs. 20,000.

High Courts and District Courts. 131. Certain additions and alterations intended to provide accommodation for an audit office and an English record-room in the Commissioner's Court-house at Raipur were completed during the year. A sum of Rs. 20,400 was spent on the acquisition of land required for the extension of the District Court at Nagpur. Various improvements were also effected in respect of the District Courts at Chanda, Amraoti, Sambalpur and Raipur. A new District Court-house at Drug was under construction, and materials were collected for the new Civil Courts at Damoh and Bilaspur.

132. In the Nagpur Central Jail a number of minor works and improvements were carried out during the year, the most important items being the construction of a new hospital kitchen and extensions to the under-trial ward. A new hospital was built at the Chanda Jail, the old one being utilized for other purposes. At Hoshangabad the circumvallation wall in the District Jail is being dismantled and re-built, and new quarters for the Jailor, Assistant Jailor and the Hospital Assistant are also in course of erection. Improvements of a miscellaneous nature were carried out at various other jails—Chhindwara, Balaghat, Akola and Jubbulpore. The double-storied hospital at the Raipur Central Jail was finally completed at a cost of Rs. 44,069. **Jails.**

133. An extensive programme of works was undertaken during the year, and Police station-houses were constructed at the Head-quarter Police lines in Raipur, and at Bemetara, Gandai, Khariar, Mahasamund, Bargarh, Drug, Hoshangabad and Kingaon-Jathu in the Buldana District. Station-houses of the first class were also erected at Hatta and Seoni-Malwa. The cost of these various buildings amounted to Rs. 30,536. Police quarters were erected at Sleemanabad, Garha, Etawah (Bina), Garhakota and Raipur. The re-construction of the City Kotwali at Nagpur and of a new Police station-house at Umrer was in progress. Other additions and improvements were taken in hand on a large scale and the money spent during the year on Police accommodation amounted to over Rs. 70,000. **Police Buildings.**

134. A new hospital at Pachmarhi was almost completed at the close of the year, and quarters for European nurses were constructed in connection with it, and also at Nagpur. Extensive improvements to the Mayo and Dufferin Hospitals at Nagpur were undertaken, partly from Provincial funds and partly from private subscriptions. They include the construction of operating rooms on the latest modern lines. First class medical dispensaries are in course of construction at Bemetara, Baloda and Mahasamund, and the veterinary dispensaries at Chanda, Wardha, Balaghat, Narsinghpur and Bhandara will shortly be completed. The new leper asylum at Nagpur is practically ready and extensive alterations to the lunatic asylum have been carried out. The total expenditure on these two buildings has been close on Rs. 82,000. **Hospitals, Dispensaries and Asylums.**

135. The total outlay upon original works of communications amounted during the year to Rs. 4,90,853, while Rs. 8,14,163 was expended in repairs. In the Nagpur Division activity in this direction was mainly confined to Chanda, where road construction is being undertaken with a view to the opening out of the zamindaris situate in the south and east of this land-locked district. Rs. 60,000 was spent on a first class road from Chanda to Allapilli and a commencement was also made with an extension of this road to Sironcha. Preliminary steps, including jungle cutting, were also undertaken in connection with a road from Allapilli to Moorumgaon and from Moorumgaon to Dhamtari. The Warora-Chimur and Brahmapuri-Garchiroli roads were practically finished. Two new Inspection huts were built at Nagbir and Chargaon in the Chanda District, and the Inspection bungalows at Umrer and Garchiroli were improved. In the Hoshangabad Division the construction of two important roads was commenced, one running from Burhanpur to Dhertalai and the other from Badnur to Ellichpur. The former project has been taken up in order to improve an important ryotwari tract, while the latter will facilitate communication between the Satpura Districts of the Central Provinces and Berar. Inspection bungalows have been completed at Pachmarhi, Jhallarwar, Sanawar, Pusia and Boregaon. Little work of any special importance was undertaken in the Narsinghpur Division, except for the completion of the Narsinghpur-Chhindwara Road. Serious damage was done to several bridges and culverts on this road by the heavy rainfall of September 1904, and one bridge was completely washed away. In the Bhandara Division good work was done. The Balaghat-Baihar Road is almost completed, and very little remains to be done on the roads from Tirora to Katangi and from Lalbarra to Samnapur. The Amgaon-Lanji and Rajigaon-Kirnapur roads were finally completed during the year, and useful work of a miscellaneous character was accomplished on the Gondia-Arjuni Road and on the ghat section of the Seoni-Katangi Road. In East Berar two new roads were under construction— **Communications.**

the Sambadeo-Dharni Road and the Ellichpur-Betul Road. The former is an extension of the existing Ellichpur-Pili Road and will ultimately connect with the road from Burhanpur to Dhertalai in the Nimar District. The latter is the southern portion of the Badnur-Ellichpur Road already mentioned. Considerable progress was made in metalling roads with the material collected in the famines both in East and West Berar. In the remaining Public Works Divisions of the Provinces comparatively little progress was made with original construction. The efforts of the Department were mainly concentrated on the improvement of existing roads, and many large causeways were constructed on roads in Raipur and Bilaspur, where they were especially required. In the Saugor Division a creditable amount of metalling work was accomplished.

Incorporated Local Funds.

136. Two school buildings, at Sobhapur in Hoshangabad and at Singhpur in Narsinghpur, were completed during the year, and a third at Belura is in progress. A dispensary was also constructed at Pandharkowra. The cost of these and other minor works was met from Incorporated Local Funds.

Contributions.

137. The Victoria Memorial Technical Institute at Nagpur was completed at a cost of Rs. 1,47,600. Other important works on hand during the year include a combined Honorary Magistrate's Court, Post Office and Public Library at Nagpur and a branch dispensary at Chappara in the Seoni District.

Railways, Tramways and Canals.

138. There are no canals as yet in existence in the Provinces, though a scheme for the construction of the Mahanadi Canal in the Chhattisgarh Division has been drawn up by the Irrigation Department. There are no railways or tramways under the control of the Local Government, with the single unimportant exception of a monorail tramway laid down for the working of the Chanda forests.

9.—IRRIGATION.

IRRIGATION.

[Season and Crop Report of the Central Provinces for 1904-05, and the Administration Report of the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department for 1904-05.]

Area under irrigation.

139. The meteorological conditions of the year once more demonstrated the extreme value of irrigation to the rice-growing districts of the Central Provinces. As a consequence of the abundant rainfall of the preceding season the tanks started the year unusually full of water and cultivators were able to make ample use of them. Without the aid of irrigation the crop of transplanted rice would have fared much worse than was actually the case. Under these circumstances a considerable expansion of the irrigated area was only to be expected, and it rose accordingly from 317,651 acres to 694,519 acres in the Central Provinces, nearly the whole of this increase being in the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions. It should be added that the area under irrigation in the preceding year was considerably below the average, as irrigation was then but little required. Irrigation in Berar is not of great importance, being chiefly confined to garden crops.

State irrigation

140. State irrigation, as a system, is still in its infancy in these Provinces, as the Irrigation Circle was only created in 1902 in accordance with the recommendation of the Irrigation Commission which assembled in that year. Work has been steadily pushed on in the past year, and over 10 lakhs of rupees was expended in protective and other irrigation works. The gauging of streams was taken up on a definite plan, and experiments were carried on in fifteen places. The year was not a favourable one for discharges during the months of September and October, as rain ceased early in the districts where work was undertaken. Any supplies based on the discharges for the year will therefore err, if anything, on the side of safety. The other results achieved may be conveniently set forth under the heads of Major and Minor Works.

Major Works.

141. Twelve tank works were under construction during the year. Work was sufficiently advanced on the tanks at Pendraon, Kukurdih, Benakheri Khurd and Hargahan to allow of their being closed, and those at Khola, Khara Dattan and Kusrangi were practically finished. Earthwork on the main tank at Marowda and its subsidiaries was completed, and considerable progress has been made with the excavation of the main distributaries and the construction of masonry works. The remaining tanks at Khapri, Khairbanda, Asola Mendha and Chandpur are also well advanced; work on the former two was handicapped owing to the scarcity of labour. Apart from these, 37 other major projects were under investigation, survey and revision. In the case of nine sanction to their construction has already been accorded; and six more will probably be sanctioned before the close of the current year. The investigation of the remaining ones made considerable progress during the period under review. They include the construction of the Mahanadi Canal.

Minor Works.

142. The expenditure on minor irrigation works during the year was nearly $2\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs: 37 minor tanks were under construction in various malguzari and ryotwari villages in seven districts; these were undertaken entirely at the Government expense. The construction of 50 small tanks was also in progress on the grant-in-aid system in the districts of Bhandara, Balaghat, Chanda, Jubbulpore and Seoni. The experiment of constructing embankments to wheat fields was continued from the previous year in Saugor, Damoh, Seoni and Hoshangabad. In all cases the system adopted was that of long contour bunds with, in some cases, rice fields below them irrigable from the embankment above when it is cut to let the water off for ploughing. The advantages expected are the increase in the general fertility of the wheat land, the avoidance of the ill effect of dry years, and, it is hoped, the eradication of *kans* grass. Among other minor works undertaken, the most important were the construction of 23 irrigation wells in the ryotwari villages of the Nimar District.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

PART I.—CENTRAL PROVINCES.

[Further details and statistics will be found in the Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India for the year 1904-05.]

GROSS REVENUE.

Gross Revenue.

143. The following statement compares the receipts, expenditure and closing balance under the various heads of account for the years 1903-04 and 1904-05 :—

Heads.	Receipts.		Expenditure.		Closing Balance.	
	1903-04.	1904-05.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1903-04.	1904-05.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imperial Revenues ...	44,70,273	54,22,344	12,24,632	11,11,807	...	...
Provincial Revenues ...	1,16,16,881	1,16,49,446	1,23,57,623	1,23,50,446	15,01,000	8,00,000
Local Funds—						
Incorporated ...	16,44,856	18,78,403	17,98,620	18,39,538	3,07,236	3,46,101
Excluded ...	4,60,392	5,35,458	4,55,437	5,22,147	1,53,985	1,67,296
Municipal Revenues ...	15,82,605	14,76,859	14,94,554	14,55,163	3,43,835	3,65,531
Total ...	1,97,75,007	2,09,62,510	1,73,30,866	1,72,79,101	23,06,056	16,78,928

NOTE.—The differences in the figures under columns "1903-04" as compared with those shown in the statement on page 37 of the Administration Report for 1903-04 were due to supplementary adjustments in the accounts for that year.

(*a*) IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE.

Imperial Revenue.

144. The following statement compares the actuals of the two years 1903-04 and 1904-05. The major heads under which striking differences have occurred are given in detail :—

Revenue and Receipts.	Actuals.		Expenditure.	Actuals.	
	1903-04.	1904-05.		1903-04.	1904-05.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Land Revenue. { Proper ...	41,93,131	43,64,778	Refunds and Drawbacks ...	22,902	31,257
Land Revenue. { Adjustment ...	—36,44,526	—33,15,904	Forest ...	5,19,855	5,32,460
Opium ...	2,61,356	2,88,409	Ecclesiastical ...	64,380	70,990
Stamps ...	3,62,630	3,86,405	Territorial and Political Pensions. ...	2,26,614	2,09,942
Excise ...	19,20,199	23,81,886	Miscellaneous ...	6,030	13,379
Customs ...	1,32,387	1,43,492	Famine Relief ...	1,37,659	157
Assessed Taxes ...	1,48,443	1,55,317	Other heads ...	2,47,192	2,53,622
Forest ...	6,95,437	6,76,410			
Tributes ...	1,91,400	2,44,550			
Miscellaneous ...	1,18,497	2,450			
Other heads ...	91,319	94,551			
Total ...	44,70,273	54,22,344	Total ...	12,24,632	11,11,807

145. LAND REVENUE—*Imperial share one-half.*—The increase was due to the collection of arrears outstanding from the year 1903-04.

146. CANAL REVENUE.—There is no canal revenue in this province.

SOURCES OF IMPERIAL REVENUE OTHER THAN LAND.

147. CUSTOMS—*Imperial.*—The increase was due to a good cotton crop and to an increase in the number of factories.

148. OPIUM—*Imperial.*—The increase is attributable chiefly to larger sales in the Native States and to the prevention of opium smuggling.

149. EXCISE—*Imperial share three-quarters.*—The income under this head has been growing rapidly. The increase in 1904-05 was partly due to better agricultural seasons and partly to the enforcement of cash payment of a certain portion of the auction bids instead of accepting personal security as in previous years.

Imperial Revenue.

150. SALT—*Imperial.*—There is no revenue in these provinces under this head. The receipts on account of Northern India and Baragora salts are passed on to the Governments of India and of Bombay, respectively.

151. STAMPS—*Imperial share one-fourth.*—The increase was due partly to the levy of poundage fees on the sale-proceeds of an old cotton spinning mill in the shape of court-fee stamps, and partly to an increase in civil suits.

152. ASSESSED TAXES—*Imperial share one-half.*—The increase was due to the revision of assessment during the year 1904-05 and to an increase in recoveries of income-tax on salaries and pensions.

153. FORESTS—*Imperial share one-half.*—The decrease was due to the failure of contractors to purchase sleepers in accordance with their agreements and also to the fact that no timber was supplied to the Ordnance Department.

154. ANY OTHER TAXES LEVIED FOR IMPERIAL REVENUES.—The recovery in 1904-05 of Rs. 35,000 from th Khairagarh State on account of the suspended tribute of 1903-04 was counterbalanced by the non-payment of the second instalment of tribute of Rs. 35,000 due from the Nandgaon State in 1904-05. The decrease under "*Miscellaneous*" was due to the recoveries of famine expenditure being less in 1904-05 than in 1903-04.

On the expenditure side, the increase under "*Refunds and Drawbacks*" was due to larger refunds under Land Revenue, Stamps and Excise; under "*Forest*" it was due to the purchase of an elephant and to improvements of water-supply for grazing cattle; under "*Ecclesiastical*" to the employment of a Chaplain at Raipur and a second probationary Chaplain; and under "*Miscellaneous*" to higher expenses under remittances of coin, as there were larger remittances in 1904-05 than in 1903-04. The decrease under "*Territorial and Political Pensions*" was due to the death of one political pensioner drawing Rs. 7,500 per annum, and also to the fact that in 1903-04 payments were made of arrears of pension due for 1902-03, which had remained undrawn in the latter year in consequence of the outbreak of plague in Nagpur. There was no famine in 1904-05.

(*b*) REVENUE AND FINANCE OTHER THAN IMPERIAL.

Provincial Revenue.

155. The following statement compares the actuals of the two years 1903-04 and 1904-05. The major heads under which striking differences occurred are shown in detail and the others are lumped together :—

Revenue and Receipts.	Actuals. 1903-04.	Actuals. 1904-05.	Expenditure.	Actuals. 1903-04.	Actuals. 1904-05.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Opening Balance ...	22,41,742	15,01,000			
			Refunds and Drawback ...	22,800	32,951
			Land Revenue ...	13,04,264	13,94,378
			Stamps ...	44,105	54,590
Land Revenue. { Proper ...	41,93,132	43,64,778	Forest ...	5,19,854	5,32,460
{ Adjustment ...	+36,44,526	+33,15,904	Interest ...	78,828	59,842
Stamps ...	10,87,891	11,59,214	General Administration ...	6,10,584	6,59,988
Excise ..	6,40,066	7,93,962	Law and Justice, Courts of Law	11,88,022	12,24,434
Assessed Taxes ...	1,48,444	1,55,317	Police ...	15,25,215	15,78,299
Forest ...	6,95,436	6,76,410	Education ...	4,89,342	5,83,109
Interest ...	1,49,357	81,094	Medical ...	4,02,637	4,24,213
Scientific and other Minor Departments.	26,755	33,995	Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.	4,16,073	4,28,563
Stationery and Printing ...	18,760	25,724	Stationery and Printing ...	2,24,592	3,18,234
Miscellaneous ...	87,016	1,05,911	Miscellaneous ...	13,64,091	2,95,812
Civil Works—P. W. D.	74,483	94,279	Civil Works, Civil ...	23 532	36,524
Contributions from Local Funds ...	1,77,021	6,74,484	Do. P. W. D. ...	27,76,727	33,34,674
Other heads ...	6,73,094	1,68,374	Contributions to Local Funds.	3,25,020	3,56,826
			Other heads ...	10,32,937	10,35,549
			Total ...	1,23,57,623	1,23,50,446
Total ...	1,16,16,881	1,16,49,446	Closing Balance ...	15,01,000	8,00,000
GRAND TOTAL ...	1,38,58,623	1,31,50,446	GRAND TOTAL ...	1,38,58,623	1,31,50,446

156. PROVINCIAL REVENUES.—The variations under the *Divided Heads* (*i. e.*, from *Land Revenue* to *Forest*) have already been explained in the section "Imperial Revenue and Finance," and those under the remaining heads are given below :—

The increase under "*Scientific and other Minor Departments*" was due to receipts from the Experimental Farms newly opened ; under "*Stationery and Printing*" to the greater amount of printing work done at the Jail Press, Nagpur ; under "*Miscellaneous*" to the receipts from the cotton market newly opened at Katol (Nagpur), and to the increase in the amount of "Unclaimed Deposits" of more than 3 years' standing lapsed to the Government, the figures for 1903-04 being lower than usual. The increase under "*Civil Works (Public Works Department)*" was due to higher receipts on account of Rent of Buildings, Ferry Collections and Fines and Miscellaneous. The decrease under *Interest* was due to smaller recoveries on account of "Interest on advances to cultivators" than those in 1903-04, as the balance of takavi loans was reduced by large remissions in 1903-04 ; and that under "*Contributions from Local Funds*" was due to the fact that contributions payable by certain District Funds for the maintenance of roads have been reduced to make up for the loss which those District Funds sustained by the transfer of the ferries on the roads to the Public Works Department.

On the expenditure side the increases under "*Refunds and Drawbacks*" and "*Forest*" have been explained in the section "Imperial Revenue and Finance." The increase under "*Land Revenue*" was chiefly due to the progress of settlement operations over a larger area than in 1903-04, and to larger outlay on the improvement of Government estates and on the purchase of villages ; large supplies of stamp paper from the central stores, owing to the quarterly indent system, account for increase under "*Stamps*"; while under "*General Administration*" the increase was on account of the purchase, maintenance, &c., of furniture for the residences of the Honourable the Chief Commissioner and of the cost of the Special Committee, appointed in 1903-04, to report on the Excise administration of the Central Provinces and Berar, which continued till November 1904. The appointments of an Additional Judicial Commissioner and of a 2nd Cantonment Magistrate raised the expenditure under "*Law and Justice—Courts of Law* ;" while the grant of a local allowance to the Inspector-General of Police, the appointment of a Personal Assistant to him for Berar, the grant of local allowances to constables drawing less than Rs. 8 per mensem in certain districts, and the expenditure on account of the re-armament of the Police Force, explain the increase under "*Police.*" The increase under "*Education*" was due to the appointment of a 4th Inspector of Schools and of an Inspectress of Schools, to increase in the pay of School-masters and to increased grants to private and local schools for building and equipment purposes ; that under "*Medical*" was on account of increase of Rs. 34,425 in the pay of District Medical Officers ; there were grants to the Dispensary Funds for building and equipment purposes amounting to Rs. 29,086, but these increases were counterbalanced by a diminished expenditure of Rs. 45,210 on plague, which in 1903-04 included a special grant-in-aid of Rs. 30,000 to the Jubbulpore Municipality. The expenditure under "*Superannuation,*" *&c.*, is of a progressive nature and that under "*Stationery and Printing*" was higher as more stationery had to be supplied to the Government Presses on the amalgamation of Berar. Grants to several municipalities for the improvements of towns and tanks, &c., caused increase under "*Civil Works (Civil).*" Under "*Civil Works (Public Works Department)*" the increase was due to larger outlay on Civil buildings than that in 1903-04. The increase under "*Contributions to Local Funds*" was due to a larger contribution than in 1903-04 to the Patwari Fund to cover its deficit in the accounts. The only heads under which decreases occurred are "*Interest*" and *Miscellaneous* ; that under the former head was due to the reduction in the opening balance of "Provincial advance and loan account" on account of large recoveries and remissions of advances in 1903-04 ; and that under the latter head was due to remissions of advances to cultivators in the current year being smaller than those made in 1903-04.

157. LOCAL FUNDS.—These funds comprise Incorporated and Excluded Local Funds. The income, expenditure and the opening and closing balances of the Incorporated Local Funds for the year 1904-05 were as follows :—

Name of the Fund.	Opening Balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Expenditure.	Closing Balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
District Funds	2,82,166	12,45,354	15,27,520	11,86,685	3,40,835
Patwari Fund	...	6,28,037	6,28,037	6,28,037	...
Inland Labour Transport Fund ...	25,070	5,012	30,082	24,816	5,266
Total ...	3,07,236	18,78,403	21,85,639	18,39,538	3,46,101

158. ROAD AND EDUCATION CESSES.—These cesses form the most important source of the income of the *District Funds*, and amounted to Rs. 2,79,636 and Rs. 1,86,921 in 1904-05 against Rs. 2,62,479 and Rs. 1,75,201 in 1903-04, respectively, owing to better collections. Another important receipt of these funds is the contribution from Government, which amounted to Rs. 2,64,695 for general purposes and Rs. 16,060 for the construction of veterinary dispensaries.

The receipts of the *Patwari Fund* consist of village and patwari cess, which amounted to Rs. 5,51,421 against Rs. 4,48,224 in 1903-04, in which the income was affected by remissions and abatements of cess in certain districts affected by famine. The receipts include a contribution of Rs. 76,071 from the Provincial Revenues, sanctioned by the Government of India, to cover the deficit of the fund on the 31st March 1905. The cause of the deficit is the increased expenditure due to the revision of the Land Records staff and of Patwaris.

The expenditure under "*Inland Labour Transport Fund*" includes a contribution of Rs. 22,000, sanctioned by the Government of India, from the balance of the Fund, to meet the deficit on the 31st March 1905, in the combined fund of Assam and Bengal.

159. EXCLUDED LOCAL FUNDS.—These are Cantonment Funds, Town and Bazar Funds, Police Remount Fund, Dispensary Funds, Museum Funds and Famine Orphan Charitable Relief Fund. The total transactions and the balances are shown in the statement under "Gross Revenues."

160. MUNICIPAL REVENUES.—The transactions and the balances of the Municipal Funds are also shown in the statement under "Gross Revenue." The receipts include Rs. 81,459 on account of grants from Government, and Rs. 8,832 on account of subscriptions from private persons for general and educational purposes.

PART II.—BERAR.

GROSS REVENUE.

Gross Revenue. 161. The following statement compares the receipts, expenditure and closing balance under the various heads for 1903-04 and 1904-05 :—

Heads.	Receipts.		Expenditure.		Closing Balance.	
	1903-04.	1904-05.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1903-04.	1904-05.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
General Revenues ...	1,17,41,438	1,27,56,147	66,96,178	66,08,482	50,45,260	61,47,665
Local Funds—						
Incorporated ...	9,61,645	11,56,539	8,76,579	10,64,835	10,00,323	10,92,027
Excluded ...	67,592	79,325	76,257	65,917	37,861	51,269
Municipal Revenues ...	2,79,879	2,88,160	2,71,215	2,77,245	2,56,086	2,67,001
Total ...	1,30,50,554	1,42,80,171	79,20,229	80,16,479	63,39,530	75,57,962

NOTE—The differences in the figures under columns "1903-04" as compared with those shown in the statement on page 41 of the Administration Report for 1903-04 were due to supplementary adjustments in the accounts for that year.

(*a*) IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE.

Imperial Revenue. 162. The following statement shows the Imperial receipts and expenditure of Berar for 1904-05 as compared with those of 1903-04 :—

Receipts.	1903-04.	1904-05.	Expenditure.	1903-04.	1904-05.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Principal Heads of Revenue.			*Direct Demands on the Revenue.*		
			1.—Refunds and drawbacks..	21,542	24,178
I.—Land-Revenue.	78,30,166	81,22,012	2.—Assignments and Compensations.	25,11,463	25,12,533
II.—Opium ...	...	...			
IV.—Stamps ...	8,48,375	8,90,042	3.—Land-Revenue ...	13,60,513	14,83,216
V.—Excise ..	19,94,331	24,46,388	4.—Opium ...	...	...
VII.—Customs ...	16,984	17,876	6—Stamps ...	28,751	52,169
VIII.—Assessed Taxes.	24,817	2,55,987	7.—Excise ...	22,452	22,403
IX.—Forest ...	6,07,159	6,60,640	11.—Forest ...	2,41,257	2,54,346
X.—Registration ...	97,065	1,03,249	12—Registration ...	49,583	46,903
Total ...	1,14,18,897	1,24,96,194	Total ...	42,35,561	43,95,748
XII.—Interest ...	21,991	17,625	14.—Interest on other obligations.	1,501	...
			15.—Post Office ...	8,816	1,377
Receipts by Civil Departments.			*Salaries and Expenses of Civil Departments.*		
			18.—General Administration..	1,95,835	59,481
XVI-A.—Law and Justice—Courts of Law.	37,278	49,290	19-A.—Law and Justice—Courts of Law	3,00,737	3,12,455
XVI-B.—Law and Justice—Jails.	30,274	20,757	19-B.—Law and Justice—Jails.	78,760	83,711
XVII.—Police ...	77,669	66,272	20—Police ...	5,56,624	5,28,066
XIX.—Education ...	37,721	36,991	22.—Education ...	2,54,557	1,89,757
XX.—Medical ...	2,059	1,348	23.—Ecclesiastical ...	7,142	9,703
XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments.	215	213	24—Medical ...	1,72,372	1,42,456
			26.—Scientific and other Minor Departments.	15,638	14,355
Total ...	1,85,216	1,74,871	Total ...	15,81,665	13,39,984

Receipts.	1903-04.	1904-05.	Expenditure.	1903-04.	1904-05.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Miscellaneous.			*Miscellaneous Civil Charges.*		
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuations.	34,151	25,159	27.—Territorial ...	27,995	5,694
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing.	4,218	3,409	29.—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.	1,73,07[illegible]	1,45,47S
XXV.—Miscellaneous ...	63,536	17,843	Total ...	2,01,071	1,51,172
			30.—Stationery and Printing..	38,318	32,728
Total ...	1,01,905	46,411	32.—Miscellaneous ...	17,666	18,005
			Total ...	55,984	50,733
			33.—Famine Relief ...	104	...
Railway Revenue Account.			*Railway Revenue Account.*		
XXVI.—State Railways.	...	...	38.—State Railways ...	...	...
			44.—Military Works ...	2,442	...
XXXII.—Civil Works ...	13,429	21,046	45.—Civil Works ...	6,09,034	6,69,468
Total ...	1,17,41,438	1,27,56,147	Total ...	66,96,178	66,08,482

RECEIPTS.

LAND REVENUE.

163. The improvement in 1904-05 was mainly on account of enhanced rates of revenue levied, and to larger tracts of land brought under cultivation in some of the districts from the spring of 1904-05.

CANAL REVENUE.

164. There was no revenue under this head.

SOURCES OF REVENUE OTHER THAN LAND.

165. *Stamps.*—Increased receipts were due to the general agricultural prosperity and to the renewal of bonds which were executed after part payment.

Excise.—Keen competition in the auction sales accounted for high receipts.

Assessed Taxes.—The extension of the application of the Income-tax Act to trades and professions was the cause for the increase.

Forest.—There was greater demand for forest produce, mainly firewood and grass.

Registration.—There were higher receipts under "Fees for registering documents."

Interest.—Large repayment of loans granted to cultivators in some of the districts has reduced the interest realizable from them.

Law and Justice (*Courts of Law*).—The receipts under this head are of a fluctuating nature.

Law and Justice (*Jails*).—The decrease was due to less manufacture of Jail articles and to the adjustment in the books of the Comptroller, India Treasuries, of the cost of the maintenance of Berar convicts in the Secunderabad Jail.

Police.—The adjustment of the amount payable to the several District Boards for construction and maintenance of pounds, by deduction from receipts instead of charging the same on the payment side as before, chiefly accounted for the difference.

Receipts in aid of Superannuations.—Contributions for pensions, &c., of officers lent to Foreign Service were adjusted in the books of the Comptroller, India Treasuries. Hence the decrease.

Miscellaneous.—The recovery of a portion of famine advances granted to the Hyderabad Contingent Cantonments and contributions received from the Hyderabad Excluded Local Funds for audit and control of their accounts raised the receipts in 1903-04. There were no such receipts during the year under report.

Civil Works.—Higher receipts under sales of produce, old materials and buildings accounted for the increase.

EXPENDITURE.

166. The variations are as follows:—

Land Revenue.—The excess expenditure was mainly on account of enhanced payments to village officers for collection of a larger revenue than in 1903-04.

Stamps.—The payment of the cost of stamp paper, hitherto supplied free of cost by His Highness the Nizam's Government, accounted for the increase.

Forest.—Extension of demarcation and survey operations and increased demand for forest produce caused excess under this head.

Post Office.—The contribution payable to the District Boards for the District Post Establishment is now adjusted through the Land Revenue head instead of charging under the service head. This change in the method of adjustment accounted for the decrease.

General Administration.—The amalgamation of the administration of Berar with that of the Central Provinces from 1st October 1903 accounted for the fall in expenditure under this head.

Law and Justice (*Courts of Law*).—Fees to pleaders paid in the Akola Jail fraud case and the appointment of an additional Civil and Sessions Judge to bring up arrears accounted for the increase.

Police.—The transfer to India of the cost of the Najib Establishment in Hyderabad and the amalgamation of the administration of the department with the Central Provinces chiefly accounted for the decrease.

Education.—The decrease was due to the adjustment of the contribution of Rs. 66,000 to the District Boards for primary education through the head I.—Land Revenue instead of treating the same as a charge under this head as was hitherto done.

Medical.—A smaller expenditure on plague in most of the districts, the amalgamation of the administration of the department with the Central Provinces, and the adjustment of the cost of the Medical School, Hyderabad, in the books of the Comptroller, India Treasuries, accounted for the decrease.

Territorial and Political Pensions and Superannuations.—The adjustment of pensions paid in the Hyderabad Treasury in the books of the Comptroller, India Treasuries, since 1st March 1904, chiefly accounted for the decrease.

Stationery and Printing.—The decrease is due to the abolition of a separate Government Press at Hyderabad from the 1st October 1903.

Civil Works.—The increased expenditure was due to larger outlay on Postal, Telegraph and Police buildings.

(*b*) REVENUE AND FINANCE OTHER THAN IMPERIAL.

167. LOCAL FUNDS.—The funds comprising them are the Incorporated and the Excluded Local Funds. The revenue, expenditure, and the opening and closing balances of these funds are as follows:—

Name of the Funds.	Opening Balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing Balance.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
District Funds ...	10,00,323	11,56,539	21,56,862	10,64,835	10,92,027	21,56,862
Excluded Local Funds ...	37,861	79,325	1,17,186	65,917	51,269	1,17,186
Total ...	10,38,184	12,35,864	22,74,048	11,30,752	11,43,296	22,74,048

District Fund.—The source of income to this fund is the surplus transfer of the following cesses:—Jaglia and Local Cess, Education Cess, Road Cess and Bazar Cess. A contribution of Rs. 1,10,715 was also made to this Fund from the Imperial Revenues during the year under report to compensate for the loss of income which the Boards sustained on the abolition of the Town Assessment from 1st April 1904, when the application of the Imperial Income-tax was extended to trades and professions.

Excluded Local Funds.—The following are the Excluded Local Funds in Berar:—Cantonment Fund, Ellichpur; Taluq Fund, Melghat; and Grain and Cotton Market Funds. The Cantonment Fund, Ellichpur, ceased to exist from the 25th March 1905 owing to the transfer of troops from Ellichpur.

Municipal Funds.—The transactions and balances of the Municipal Funds are also given in the table under Gross Revenue.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES.

DETAILS OF CENSUS.

1.—DETAILS OF CENSUS.

168. An account of the above subject will be found on pages 31—52 of the Report on the Administration of the Central Provinces for 1901-02, and on pages 22—25 of the Report on the Administration of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts for the same year.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

2.—BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending December 31, 1904, and Table XIII-2—13 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1904-05.]

System of registration.

169. No change was made in the system of registering vital statistics in the Central Provinces and Berar. Some minor transfers of area occurred between four districts, but these did not affect the total provincial area under registration. The deduced population at the close of 1904 was 13,221,847, being an increase of 5·84 per cent. on the census enumeration of 1901. This figure is obtained by adding to the census figures the births which have occurred since the census year, and deducting the deaths which occurred during the same period. Immigration and emigration are left out of account. A large number of village report books were checked by different inspecting officers, and less than 1 per cent. of omissions were shown in upwards of half a million of entries examined. Taken as a whole, therefore, the registration of vital statistics in rural areas would appear to be very accurate. It is difficult to estimate the efficiency of registration in towns where plague has caused high mortality. There has been, however, a general improvement in this respect during the past year.

Births.

170. The total number of births registered during the year was 654,474, and the birth-rate was 53·19 *per mille*, the highest recorded for many years. Every district in the province contributed to the increase. The rural birth-rate exceeds the urban by 13·95 *per mille*, the difference being partly due to the fact that the urban population was reduced for varying periods in 1904 by evacuation of plague-stricken areas in various towns, while registration is as a rule less accurate in towns; but there can be no doubt that the people are healthier and more prolific in the rural than in urban areas. Births exceeded deaths in every district in about the same proportion as in the preceding year, and the percentage of male children to females remained constant.

Deaths.

171. The ratio of deaths *per mille* in the combined provinces was 32·06 as compared with 35·52 in 1903 and a decennial mean of 32·44. It is satisfactory to note that the unusually high birth-rate does not appear to have resulted in any increase of infant mortality, as the deaths of children under one year numbered only 143,128 as against 152,930 in the preceding year. The year was thus a decidedly healthy one as regards non-epidemic mortality, and, as might be expected in a season of deficient rainfall, malarial fevers were far less prevalent than usual The urban death-rate was nearly 50 per cent. in excess of the rural rate. This high relative mortality was due almost entirely to plague. It has been noticed that in all the districts in which the Muhammadan death-rate was abnormally high, plague was prevalent, and it is probable that as a class Muhammadans live under conditions less favourable to health than the Hindus.

Chief diseases.

172. The number of deaths recorded from plague was 42,866, equivalent to 3·43 *per mille* of population, and was less than in the previous year by about 8,600, the decrease occurring chiefly in Berar. As in the previous year, there

can be little doubt that many deaths due to plague were recorded under fevers and other causes, and the actual plague mortality was probably higher by 10 per cent. than the figures appearing in the returns. The chief plague centres were Jubbulpore, Narsinghpur, Saugor, Amraoti and the town of Umrer in the Nagpur District, but very few districts remained entirely unaffected. As is usually the case in these provinces there were two distinct periods of prevalence. The first, carried on from the year previous, had attained its maximum at the commencement of the year under review and terminated in May, while the second commenced in August and lasted till the end of the year. Small-pox was particularly deadly in Bilaspur, but was less prevalent than usual in the other districts of the Central Provinces, and the total number of recorded deaths was slightly less than in 1903. On the other hand there were 2,967 deaths from cholera as against 437. Three-fourths of the total mortality occurred in Berar, chiefly in the districts of Buldana and Akola, and the greater part of the Central Provinces remained free from the disease.

Special measures.

173. In only a few municipal towns was it found possible to institute measures for the destruction of mosquito-breeding grounds, as funds sufficient for the purpose were not available. Although the benefits effected by the measures taken may not be immediately apparent, it is certain that work of this kind, steadily carried on from year to year, is calculated not only to diminish the prevalence of malarial fevers but also to improve the general health of the community. The treatment of snake-bite by anti-venene has again been inconclusive in its results, and the statistics furnished afford no sure indication of its value. The cost of sending to Kasauli indigent persons bitten by mad dogs has now been imposed on Municipal and District Funds, and it is hoped that the effect of this arrangement will be seen in the adoption of more adequate measures by Municipalities for the prompt destruction of rabid animals.

3.—EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

[Report on Inland Emigration of the Central Provinces for the year ending 30th June 1905, and Table XXXV-4 of the Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India.]

Emigration.

174. The number of emigrants from the Central Provinces to the Assam labour districts has still further diminished during the past year, and the strength of the recruiting agency has also declined to a marked extent. The total number of emigrants recruited during the year was 2,708, of whom 1,736 were males and 972 females: they were accompanied by 778 dependants. The total number of emigrants in the previous year was 3,367. The decrease may be ascribed generally to the rapid recovery of the agricultural population from the effects of recent scarcities and to the natural reaction against the forced activity shown in famine years. There were, however, other more specific causes which contributed to the difficulties experienced by recruiters. The demand for labour greatly increased, and the wages of coolies rose in consequence. In Nimar the coolies required for the construction of the Railway had to be imported in considerable numbers. The road and irrigation projects of the Nagpur Division exhausted the local labour supply and drew largely upon Chhattisgarh, which is the principal recruiting ground in this province, while for the manganese mines in Balaghat labourers were attracted from Chota-Nagpur, Rewa and the north of the Province. The minimum wage of Rs. 5 offered by tea-garden owners in Assam now holds out but little attraction to the unskilled hand in these provinces. Given a continuation of favourable seasons, there is very little prospect of emigration from this part of India in the immediate future.

Health of emigrants.

175. The depôts provided for the convenience of emigrants were periodically inspected and were generally found to be in satisfactory condition. The accommodation furnished was amply sufficient and the sanitary arrangements were adequate. The health of the coolies was good throughout the year and no disease or epidemic occurred among them.

Working of Act VI of 1901.

176. Recruiting operations were carried on smoothly, and both the Act and the rules made under it have been intelligently administered. The operations of the class of recruiters known as garden-sardars were singularly unsuccessful, as

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nearly 2,000 sardars collected less than 1,600 coolies between them. Some part of this failure was probably due to the unsatisfactory character of many of the sardars sent down from Assam. Numbers of them had no previous connection with the districts to which they were sent, and in many cases they could not even speak the language of the people. The few offences against the Act which came to the notice of the Courts were not of a serious character.

Financial.

177. The total receipts from fees amounted to Rs. 4,888 against Rs. 7,698 in the previous year; of this sum Rs. 2,478 was realized on account of the registration of labourers and the remainder consisted of license fees.

Immigration.

178. No immigration into the Central Provinces and Berar has been reported during the year.

MEDICAL RELIEF. 4.—MEDICAL RELIEF.

[Triennial Report on the Government Charitable Dispensaries in the Central Provinces and Berar for the years 1902—04, and Table XIV-2—6 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for the year 1904-05.]

Number of dispensaries.

179. The total number of hospitals and dispensaries in the Central Provinces and Berar was 243. This figure is two less than in the year 1903, the decrease being due to the closure of three Railway dispensaries on the Satpura line, which have been replaced by one permanent dispensary at Nainpur. Thirty-six dispensaries were supported by the State and 123 by Local Funds, the remainder either belonging to railways or being private institutions. A new dispensary was opened at Chappara in the Seoni District and at Pulgaon in the Wardha District The districts which are worst off in respect of dispensaries are Mandla, Betul and Wun. These are all to a large extent hilly and sparsely populated. Provision has been made for the upkeep of five dispensaries now in course of construction in the districts of Chhindwara, Seoni, Balaghat and Chanda.

Number of patients.

180. The number of patients attending at hospitals was slightly greater than in the previous year, but was still considerably below that recorded in 1902. This was due to some extent to the healthy circumstances of the year, but it must be also attributed in a large measure to the continued existence of plague in the larger towns. The presence of the epidemic undoubtedly tends to keep people away from the hospitals, especially when they are suffering from fever, and the returns for the year show that the greatest decreases in attendance have occurred in the districts where plague has been worst. There are, however, signs of a change of attitude in this respect. The number of in-door patients treated in 1904 shows a slight increase even in the Nagpur and Jubbulpore Districts, which were infected by plague. At the Shahpura Dispensary in Nimar the attendance actually increased during an outbreak of plague, and several plague patients were sent there for treatment. At Jubbulpore also a large number of plague cases were treated as out-door patients. In spite of increased facilities for the separate treatment of women, the number of female patients treated has fallen by 2 per cent. since 1901. In normal years the work done at the three Dufferin hospitals for women is much appreciated, and there can be little doubt that the fear of plague was solely responsible for the falling off in numbers.

Private dispensaries.

181. There are 20 private dispensaries maintained chiefly by the various Missions and 28 maintained by the Feudatory States. Attendance at the State Dispensaries showed an increase of nearly 20,000 patients, while the numbers treated by the Missionary institutions were practically the same as in 1902, a slight decrease from last year's figures being manifested.

Relative frequency of diseases.

182. The most important variations in 1904, as compared with the previous year, were a large increase of 29,920 under eye-diseases, and of 19,756 under skin-diseases, while malarial fever declined by 14,000. The deficient rainfall accounted in a great measure for the diminished prevalence of malarial disease, owing to the rapid drying up of the pools of stagnant water in which the malaria-carrying anopheles mosquitos ordinarily breeds. At the same time it is very likely that the plague scare played some part in the decrease of malarial cases treated in the hospitals. The slight increase shown in the returns of

tubercular disease was doubtless due to more accurate diagnosis and classification. It is probable that this form of disease is more prevalent than the figures indicate.

183. The number of operations performed during the year showed an increase of 2,118. The advance indicates returning confidence on the part of the people, who do not fear the hospitals in times of plague quite as much as they used to. The large majority of these operations were surgically of a trivial nature, but more than 780 operations for cataract were performed. **Surgical operations.**

184. The Central Provinces Administration as well as the various District and Municipal Funds all contributed liberally towards the upkeep of dispensaries, and the total income for the combined Provinces amounted to over five lakhs, or nearly one lakh in excess of the previous year's receipts. A special grant of Rs. 47,724 was made by Government for buildings and for the improvement of dispensary equipment. Native subscriptions in the Central Provinces showed a notable increase from Rs. 23,724 to Rs. 34,905. **Income.**

185. The total expenditure rose from Rs. 2,99,403 to Rs. 3,64,143. The greater portion of the increase was incurred in connection with buildings and repairs, and there was also a larger expenditure on account of new dispensaries, increased establishment and improvement of general equipment. Many of the Berar dispensaries are well off and have invested funds; but the financial condition of several in the Central Provinces is less satisfactory, and some are barely able to pay their way. **Expenditure.**

5.—TREATMENT OF THE INSANE.

[Notes on the Annual Statements on the Lunatic Asylums in the Central Provinces for the year 1904 and Table XV-2—8 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1904-05.] **TREATMENT OF THE INSANE.**

186. The numbers of criminal and non-criminal lunatics under the care of the Nagpur and Jubbulpore Asylums were practically identical with those of the preceding year, and the total population was 360, of whom 91 were criminals. The health of the inmates of the Nagpur Asylum was not good, the number of deaths being 12·58 per cent. of the daily average strength; the chief causes of the mortality were lung complications and epileptic coma. The corresponding percentage at Jubbulpore was 5·99. Two lunatics died during the year who had been over 33 years in this asylum. **Numbers and health.**

187. The investigation of the predisposing causes in the cases of lunacy must always be a matter of difficulty. Some progress was made in this enquiry during the past year, notably in the Nagpur Asylum, and the chief physical causes would appear to be the excessive use of ganja and similar intoxicants, congenital vice, and epilepsy. **Investigation of causes.**

188. The average cost per head in the Nagpur Asylum was Rs. 91-1-6, practically the same as in 1903, and in the Jubbulpore Asylum Rs. 68-8-10, or Rs. 8-0-5 more than in the previous year. The increase in the cost in the Jubbulpore Asylum was due to some extent to improvement in the pay of warders and to improvement in the diet scale. In the Nagpur Asylum the cost per head was apparently much higher than in Jubbulpore. The contingent expenditure in Nagpur amounted to Rs 3, ·40, whilst in Jubbulpore it was only Rs. 580-12-6. The contingent expenditure in the Nagpur Asylum was mainly incurred in connection with the Dairy Farm, which is self-supporting. Making allowance for the receipts (approximately Rs. 3,000) from the Dairy Farm, the actual cost per head in the two asylums does not differ very materially. **Expenditure.**

189. The Dairy Farm at the Nagpur Asylum continued to work satisfactorily. It supplies the wants not only of the inmates of the asylum but also to a large extent of the general public. The attached farm also proved a profitable concern. The blankets manufactured at the Jubbulpore Asylum and sold to the public realized Rs. 200 more than in the previous year. The diet scale in both asylums has been improved. The lunatics are well fed and clothed. Their amusements are attended to and every consideration is shown them. At Nagpur two new wards have been constructed, each capable of accommodating **Industries and improvements.**

TREATMENT OF THE INSANE.

20 inmates. A block of six cells has also been erected, together with quarters for a matron, and a hospital for male patients. The present asylums at Jubbulpore and Nagpur, though utilized to the best advantage possible, are neither of them quite up to modern standards. The question of the construction of a new Central Asylum at Chhindwara is under consideration

6.—SANITATION.

SANITATION.

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces for the year 1904, and Table XIII-2—13 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1904-05.]

Chief sanitary works.

190. No original works of importance were undertaken during the year. A comprehensive scheme of drainage for Nagpur City is now under the consideration of the Public Works Department. A drainage scheme for Wardha Town has been submitted for sanction which is estimated to cost Rs. 36,000; similar projects are in contemplation at Hoshangabad, Bilaspur and Hinganghat. No new water-supply works were completed during the year, but the Municipalities of Nagpur, Raipur and Amraoti expended considerable sums on the improvement of existing supplies.

Municipal sanitation.

191. In many of the municipal towns there has been considerable activity in sanitary matters. In Nagpur a sum of Rs. 15,222 was spent in acquiring houses and lands for the improvement of congested localities, for the extension of markets and slaughter-houses, and for trenching and burial purposes, and other minor sanitary improvements were carried out at a total cost of Rs. 15,000. The improvement of the existing drainage has also received considerable attention in Narsinghpur, Burhanpur, Chanda, Sambalpur and Akola, while the question of water-supply was taken up in Damoh, Pulgaon and Sambalpur, in all of which towns considerable sums were expended in the digging of wells and the improvement of existing supplies. It is a matter for regret that nothing was done in Jubbulpore Town, but the large expenditure incurred as a result of plague, continued over two consecutive years, has left very little money available for sanitary improvements.

Rural sanitation.

192. No fresh villages were brought under the provisions of the Village Sanitation Act during the year in the Central Provinces and the Act has not been made applicable to Berar. The total amount expended under the provisions of the Act was Rs. 18,004. The large majority of the village Committees appear to devote an unduly large proportion of their income to roads, drainage and other measures of conservancy, and are apt to neglect the question of water-supply. Apart from the working of the Act, however, considerable progress was made with the improvement of the rural water-supply under the auspices of the Sanitary Board and the various District Councils. The special grant of Rs. 25,000 accorded in the preceding year was expended, and a material improvement was effected in the districts of Saugor, Narsinghpur, Hoshangabad, Nimar, Mandla and Nagpur. Private enterprise was active, and the total number of wells constructed or repaired from this source was not far short of 100. Meetings of the Sanitary Board were held in 19 districts, and progress was made in the Central Provinces with the preparation of a programme of works of village sanitary improvements for each district.

7.—VACCINATION.

VACCINATION.

[Triennial Report on Vaccination in the Central Provinces and Berar for the years 1902-03, 1903-04 and 1904-05, also Table XVI-2—8, of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1904-05.]

General record of vaccinations.

193. The total number of operations performed during the year by vaccinators and hospital assistants was 689,787, an increase of 7 per cent. on the work accomplished in the preceding year. These figures are especially satisfactory as plague continued prevalent in many parts of the province during the year. Each vaccinator performed on an average 2,092 operations, or 104 more than in 1903-04. Primary vaccinations showed a large and steady increase, while re-vaccinations declined. A great portion of this decrease is more apparent than real; under present instructions no case is now considered a re-vaccination unless the subject shows obvious marks of previous successful vaccination or of small-pox, and there is much reason to believe that in former years many

so-called re-vaccinations were really primary vaccinations. The percentage of successful primary operations claimed by vaccinators was 99·31 per cent. in the Central Provinces and 97·45 in Berar.

Vaccination in Municipalities.

194. The Vaccination Act is in force in 49 Municipalities and was not extended to any fresh town during the year. Vaccination work in Municipalities was on the whole satisfactory, though progress was hindered in several towns by the prevalence of plague. 86·16 per cent. of the children under one year available for vaccination were successfully operated on, and this figure compares favourably with the general provincial ratio of 74·54.

Mortality from small-pox.

195. The total annual mortality from small-pox was higher than in the previous year, though lower than in 1902-03. The annual ratio per mille of population protected by vaccination in the Central Provinces was 42·92 and in Berar 38·69. Owing to the disturbing influence of plague in recent years, it is tolerably certain that the general population contains a larger proportion than usual of unprotected children, and the liability of the people to small-pox was therefore increased. The disease was particularly prevalent in the districts of Bilaspur, Raipur and Buldana.

Lymph.

196. The use of glycerinated calf lymph has steadily increased, and more than three-fourths of the total operations were performed with it with very satisfactory results. The use of lanolinated calf lymph was not so successful, and experience has shown that from time to time, and especially at the commencement of the vaccination season, the lymph is often more or less inert. The use of glycerinated lymph will now be extended to Berar. The numbers vaccinated with the different kinds of lymph were as follows :—With fresh calf lymph 72,967, of which 98·21 were successful; with glycerinated lymph 339,665, percentage successful 96·14; with human lymph 25,869, with a percentage of 97·54; and with lanolinated calf lymph 1,29,000, of which 95·14 were successful.

Expenditure.

197. The total cost of the Provincial Vaccine Department in the Central Provinces amounted to Rs. 44,564-13-11 or Rs. 1,926-1-3 more than in the previous year. The increase is mainly due to the increase of travelling allowance charges, to the extra cost incurred in manufacturing glycerinated lymph, and to the payment of rewards to vaccinators specially commended for good work. The average cost of each successful case was one anna and nine pies against one anna and ten pies in 1903-04. In Berar the total expenditure amounted to Rs. 15,166-11-1 against Rs. 17,325-3-9. The decrease is mainly due to certain appointments not having been filled up pending reorganization of the Department. The average cost of each successful vaccination was two annas and three pies against two annas and nine pies in the preceding year. Hitherto the Berar establishment has been comparatively highly paid and was also unnecessarily strong. With the amalgamation of the staff of the two provinces, the difference in average cost should disappear. In the Feudatory States the vaccination charges amounted to Rs. 7,336-3-4, practically the same as in the year previous; the average cost of each successful vaccination was one anna against one anna and one pie in 1903-04.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

1.—GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

198. An account of this subject will be found at pages 118 to 124 of the Report on the Administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1901-02, and also at pages 80 to 83 of the Report on the Administration of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts for the same year.

2.—EDUCATION.

EDUCATION.

[Report on the state and progress of Education in the Central Provinces for the year 1904-05 and Table X-1, 2, 3-I, 3-J, 4-I, 5-D, 5-E, 6-J, 6-K, 7-J, 7-K, 8-I, 8-J, 9-E, 9-F, 10-I, 10-J, and Table XI of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for the year 1904-05.]

Number of Schools and Scholars.

199. In spite of the presence of plague in a sporadic form in nearly every district, which has necessarily interfered with the progress of education, the results attained during the past year may be regarded as satisfactory. There was a decline of 19 in the actual number of schools, in consequence of the disappearance of certain indigenous schools in Berar, but the total number of scholars in the various schools, including Feudatory States, rose from 218,131 to 234,859, the increase for the Central Provinces and Berar alone being 12,796. Every class of educational institution contributed to the increase. The numbers of Muhammadan pupils, both male and female, increased, and there are indications that this class of the community are awakening to the advantages of higher education.

Features of the year's work.

200. Several reforms were carried out during the year. A scheme under which all masters in Government High and Normal schools are graded in one Provincial list has been introduced, and the new arrangement should, by improving their prospects of promotion, add considerably to the efficiency of the teaching staff. At the same time the pay of Primary School Head Masters has been raised and a minimum of Rs. 10 per mensem fixed for certificated teachers—an improvement of much importance, which may be expected to lead in time to greatly increased efficiency in the teaching in these schools. Further progress has also been made in giving effect to the policy laid down by the Government of India of substituting more efficient inspection for examinations, which has been steadily carried out in these Provinces for some years past. In pursuance of this policy, a new Inspector's Circle has been created, and there are now 5 Circle Inspectors in the Provinces, one for each Commissioner's Division. An Inspectress of Girls' Schools has also been appointed, who has charge of all the girls' schools in the Provinces, while European schools, which were hitherto inspected by one of the Circle Inspectors, have now been entrusted to a separate Inspector of European Schools, whose services are shared with the Bombay Government. The subordinate inspecting staff of Deputy Inspectors had already been increased and their pay raised, and the Provinces are now well equipped so far as the strength and efficiency of their inspecting staff is concerned.

Expenditure on Education.

201. The total expenditure on Public Instruction was Rs. 19,29,952, being an increase of Rs. 77,000 in comparison with the figures for the preceding year. The additional expenditure was incurred chiefly in connection with inspection and in the improvement of the buildings and equipment of schools. There has also been an increase in the expenditure on Normal Schools, which may be expected to justify itself in the form of a larger supply of trained school masters in the course of a few years. Provincial Funds contributed about 50 per cent. of the total expenditure, while 23 per cent. was met from District Funds, which in

the Central Provinces contribute their fair share towards education, though there is still room for expansion in the case of the District Boards in Berar. Municipal Committees have spent more on education than in the previous year; these bodies are, however, somewhat inclined to foster secondary schools which teach English, at the expense of primary education. Liberal grants have been made in the current year to Local Funds for the development of primary schools, and it is hoped that their result will soon be apparent in an increase in the number of schools and pupils.

University Education.

202. There are three colleges in the Central Provinces and none in Berar. The number of scholars at the Government College, Jubbulpore, increased from 70 to 96. Owing to the severity of the plague epidemic, the college was closed throughout the middle of the year, and the Allahabad University Examinations were postponed until July 1905. The work of the Hislop College and of the Morris College at Nagpur was much interrupted during the previous two years, also on account of plague, and as a result the two colleges can show only 9 passes in the B. A. Examination and 20 in the examination for the F. A. degree. Although the year under review was free from plague, the Hislop College slightly declined in numbers. The percentage of the average daily attendance increased from 69 to 82. At the Morris College, on the contrary, the strength has slightly increased, while the average daily attendance has gone down.

Secondary Education.

203. Secondary schools in British Territory decreased from 385 to 368. The decrease was generally confined to Vernacular Middle Schools and was due to the abolition of the Middle Departments of some of these schools. The total number of pupils, however, increased from 35,981 to 40,576. Secondary education was less interfered with by plague than in the previous year, and it is probably to this cause that increases in numbers, attendance and passes in the High Schools in Nagpur are to be attributed. The High Schools in Jubbulpore show a slight advance all round. New High Schools have been started at Bilaspur and Wardha. Anglo-Vernacular Middle Schools decreased in numbers, but the number of pupils enrolled has increased. These schools are gradually recovering from the effects of plague, but have not yet regained their former position. Vernacular Middle Schools are decreasing, because townspeople desire their children to acquire a tincture of English. This type of school is still popular in rural areas and in the smaller towns, and is regarded in some quarters as the best class of institution for imparting real education; its gradual disappearance is therefore a matter for regret.

Primary Schools.

204. The number of primary schools in British Territory is 2,818, and they contain 155,985 boys as against 150,212 in the previous year. The work of the various District Councils in connection with primary education was uniformly excellent, and the Board Schools under their charge have increased everywhere both in numbers and attendance. This is a satisfactory proof of the growing popularity of the primary education provided. Conferences of Primary School teachers were held in all districts, and do much towards widening the views of the ordinary village schoolmaster. Special attention was paid to the education of children of low caste in recent years, and it is an encouraging fact that in not a few of these schools Gonds and Mahars are found in advance of their companions alike in their attendance and in their work.

Training Schools.

205. There are six Government institutions for the training of teachers—two in Jubbulpore, two in Nagpur and one each in Raipur and Akola. All these are making steady progress, but the task of providing qualified teachers for primary schools is still a matter of great difficulty. Much has been done in the past year to attract students to Normal Schools by offering enhanced scholarships, but the demand of Government and Board schools for trained teachers is still far in excess of the supply, while for schools under private management there has hitherto been no source from which trained teachers could be procured. An interesting experiment is now being made at Ellichpur, where the local Mission has recently opened a private establishment to train masters for low caste and aboriginal schools. The training classes attached to Vernacular

Middle Schools did good work, and 54 candidates were successful at the Teacher's Certificate examination of the primary grade, against 32 in the preceding year. The total number of pupils on the rolls of the various training schools was 412, against 353 in 1903, and 111 Teacher's Certificates were awarded.

Technical Education.

206. Technical instruction in these Provinces has as yet hardly advanced beyond the experimental stage. Among industrial schools the Government Reformatory School at Jubbulpore gave instruction in different trades to 125 students. The Government Industrial School at Amraoti, which teaches tailoring, carpentry and blacksmith's work, attracted only 17 pupils. This school will shortly be absorbed into the new Victoria Technical Institute now in course of construction. The numbers at the Engineering School, Jubbulpore, fell from 39 to 30; the decrease is to be attributed to plague, which interfered much with the work of the school. A large number of Mission schools also impart technical instruction, notably the St. Francis de Sale's School and the Convent School at Nagpur. These have, however, no definite system or prescribed standard of instruction, though there can be no doubt that in some of them very good and useful work is being done. The work of the Agricultural School at Nagpur, with its Malguzari class and Normal Agricultural class has already been noticed in Chapter IV of this Report.

Female Education.

207. The number of girls' schools increased from 217 to 229, while the attendance rose from 11,076 to 11,775, the largest increase being in Governmant schools. Eight new Government schools were opened during the year. Female education becomes more popular every year, and there is fair possibility of a rapid development in the early future. The transfer of all girls' schools in the Central Provinces from local bodies to the direct management of the Education Department has been a success, and the sanction recently accorded to the adoption of a similar measure in Berar has already resulted in a large number of applications for new schools in many places. The chief obstacle to the spread of female education is the lack of female teachers; but it is hoped that the measures lately adopted at the Female Normal Schools, which include the raising of the stipend paid to students, will produce a larger supply of qualified women teachers. Girls' schools under the Missionary Societies continue to be well managed.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

3.—LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

[Table XII-1 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1904-05.]

Publications.

208. The total number of books published was 34, of which 14 were poetical works and 7 were of a religious character. They were nearly all written in Marathi, there being only four Hindi works. The publications included two dramatic works, but none of the books were of any special interest.

The Vernacular Press.

209. As in the previous year, there were 18 papers published in the Central Provinces and Berar. None of these papers has any wide circulation and can scarcely be said to have any definite influence over public opinion. They are only read by a small number of educated persons and are generally insignificant alike in quantity and quality, though the *Nagpur and Berar Times* and the *Desha Sewak* have both some small claim to be regarded as newspapers.

Printing Presses.

210. There are in all 48 printing presses in the Provinces, of which 18 are in Berar.

LITERARY SOCIETIES.

4.—LITERARY SOCIETIES.

211. There were 91 literary societies in the Provinces during the year under report. The large majority of these are in reality little more than subscription libraries. Others exist for the purpose of social amusement and out-door games. A few have as their objects political or religious discussion and public speaking. These societies are, as a rule, brought into existence with the idea of promoting education and cultivating the literary taste of the public. They depend mainly for support on subscriptions received from members, but in the case of 23 societies which are doing good work, this source of income is augmented by grants from Government and Municipal funds.

5.—ARTS AND SCIENCES.

[Report on the Department of Agriculture, Central Provinces, for 1904-05.]

212. There are only two Museums in the Province, *viz.*, the Provincial Museum at Nagpur and a small local one at Raipur. The daily average number of visitors to the Nagpur Museum was 215 against 271 in the previous year, the decrease being largely due to the Museum having been closed for about seven weeks while the building remained under repairs. The ceilings were renewed and the walls repainted, and at the suggestion of Mr. Cousens, Superintendent of the Archæological Survey for Bombay and Berar, shallow shelves were provided in the hall at the west end for the reception of small statues. The principal additions to the Museum consist of some tussar silk cloths manufactured at Sambalpur, Bilaspur and Chanda, and 111 coins presented by the Government of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, the Bombay Branch of the Asiatic Society, the Commissioner of Berar and the Deputy Commissioners of Saugor and Wun Districts. It is satisfactory to record here that the Museum was awarded two silver medals by the Madras Fine Arts Exhibition, one for the tussar silk collection and the other for Burhanpur *sáris*. A certificate was also granted by the same institution commending the leather embroidery work of Chanda.

The number of visitors to the Museum at Raipur fell from 116,956 to 88,249 during the year.

The Museum fund opened with a balance of Rs. 605 and closed with a balance of Rs. 1,647, or Rs. 1,042 in excess of the previous year. This is due to a special grant of Rs. 500 having been made by the Local Adminstration for the purchase of exhibits.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

[For further information see Archæological Survey of India (New Series), Volume XIX.]

ARCHÆOLOGY.

213. The restoration of ancient monuments has been continued on the lines indicated by the Superintendent of the Archæological Survey for the Bombay Circle, who had, in the previous year, selected certain buildings, chiefly mosques and temples, as being of sufficient antiquarian interest to justify their preservation at the public expense. The total Imperial grant sanctioned for this purpose during the year was Rs. 4,978, while a further sum of Rs. 8,033 was allotted from Provincial funds. Altogether work was carried on in eight districts. In Jubbulpore the old Gauri Shankar Temple was repaired and a sum of Rs. 150 was also expended in the conservation of other ancient monuments. An old and ruined temple at Nohta in the Damoh District was repaired and partly re-built, and some old monuments at Kanna, Hindoria and Raneh were restored. Important works were carried out in the Nimar District. At Burhanpur the front of the Bibi Masjid was cleared and levelled, and the repairs to the outside plaster of Shah-Sujah's tomb were completed. Displaced stones on the Adil Shah Faruki's tomb were re-placed and wire-netting was fixed to all the doors and windows. The Raja's Chhattri and the tomb of Shah Nawaz Khan were also restored, while at Mandhata materials to the value of Rs. 390 were collected for the preservation of the Temple of Sideshwar. The total expenditure in this district amounted to Rs. 4,224. The old mosque at Rohinkher in the Buldana District was repaired at a cost of Rs. 1,097. In the Raipur District the Jain temple at Arang was restored and a compound wall was erected, and work was also commenced for the preservation of an old brick temple at Sirpur. Measures were taken to restore the interesting old temples at Janjgir, Mohamaye, Pujaripali and Arbhar in the Bilaspur District. The ancient Buddhist remains at Erun in the Saugor District are of considerable interest to archæologists, and special attention has been paid to them. Stone platforms were constructed to support two of the columns of the ancient monuments, and the large entrance has been dismantled and re-built. The ornamental pillars, which had fallen, were restored, and petty repairs were carried out at a total cost of Rs. 500. A small sum was also expended on the conservation of the Pachmarhi caves. Considerable progress has thus been made during the past year.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

1.—ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION.

ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION.

Ecclesiastical.

214. The diocese of Nagpur was formed in the year 1903. It includes the whole of the Central Provinces and Berar and also the whole of Central India, Ajmere-Merwara and all stations of Rajputana, excepting Mount Abu. No changes have taken place during the past year.

2.—STATIONERY.

STATIONERY.

215. The cost of stationery used in the offices of the Central Provinces has increased from Rs. 95,873 in 1903-04 to Rs. 1,03,948 in 1904-05. The larger portion of this increase has occurred in the office of the Judicial Commissioner and in the Departments of Education, of Settlements and Agriculture, and of Public Works; it is to be attributed to the increased consumption resulting from the amalgamation of the Berar offices with those of the Central Provinces. The cost of type-writers indented for by various offices is also included under the head of stationery. There was a marked increase in the expenditure of stationery supplied to printing presses, which advanced from Rs. 40,248 to Rs. 1,18,145. The increase in the case of the Secretariat Press was due to the introduction of binding work, and the large increase in the case of the Jail Press was due to a requisition of a three years' supply of stationery.

3.—GENERAL—MISCELLANEOUS.

GENERAL.

The registration of rainfall.

216. During the year two new rain-gauge stations were established, and the total number of rain-gauges maintained was 92, of which 12 are observatories under the direct superintendence of the Meteorological Department The number of rain-gauge stations in Berar was 44; no fresh stations were established nor were any existing ones abolished during the year, but the rain-gauges at Pusad and Panderkaura were removed to more suitable sites. The mode of registering and regulating the rainfall has remained unchanged, and the success attained in the registration of rainfall during the year was very satisfactory.

Co-operation with the Agricultural Chemist to the Government of India.

217. Specimens of tilli and mustard seed were sent to the Agricultural Chemist for examination. The result of his analysis showed that the local mustard seed is at least equal to that of the Punjab. His analysis of the various samples of tilli seed examined showed a marked superiority in favour of the Dharwar variety. This seed was obtained and tried in the Nagpur Farm, but an analysis of the seed of the crop reaped gave only moderate results. A report on linseed and safflower seeds was received in the previous year, and specimens were this year sent from Nagpur to various districts for further trial, but while the crop grown from these seeds gave results superior to the local variety, the percentage of oil contained in them was low.

Co-operation with the Reporter on Economic products

218. At the request of the Reporter on Economic Products the following collections were made :—

(*a*) The collection of tubers and botanical specimens of yams grown in these Provinces was continued. Several of these have been identified, and others have been registered and preserved for reference in the Economic Herbarium, Calcutta.

(*b*) A further collection of botanical specimens of gums was sent to the Reporter. A large number were identified, while several served to authenticate the specimens previously received and registered by him.

(*c*) Samples of juar grown in the Amraoti, Buldana, Ellichpur and Wun districts of Berar were sent to the Economic Museum in connection with the preparation of the forthcoming Agricultural Ledger.

(*d*) A collection of bees sent to the Reporter from Hoshangabad was found to contain five species, of which two were previously unknown.

Special enquiries.

219. A report on tassar cultivation in the Central Provinces was received from the Assistant Director of Agriculture, Bengal, as a result of his enquiries made during the preceding year. The report shows that tassar cultivation is deteriorating owing to the increasing difficulty found by the growers in obtaining wild cocoons. They are generally unwilling to use the large hard cocoons which give the best seed owing to their irregular and often long delayed eclosion. The proposals contained in the report are, briefly, the procuring of wild cocoons through the agency of the Forest Department from certain specially reserved areas, where the wild strain is not likely to be affected by the proximity of semi-domesticated moths; this wild stock should be bred for sale at a few selected centres, two in Bengal to start with, and if these are successful, then in two more in the Central Provinces, one at Jharsuguda and one near Gondia. At these centres the worms would be fed on trees planted at some distance apart, to ensure light and air and the rapid drying up of dew and rain.

Secrt. Press, Nagpur.—No. 1638 G. D.—21-1-06—490.

REPORT

ON THE

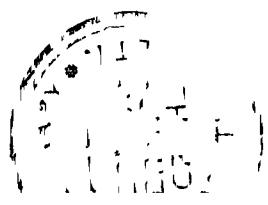
ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES & BERAR

FOR THE YEAR

1905-06.



Agents for the sale of Books published by the Central Provinces Administration.

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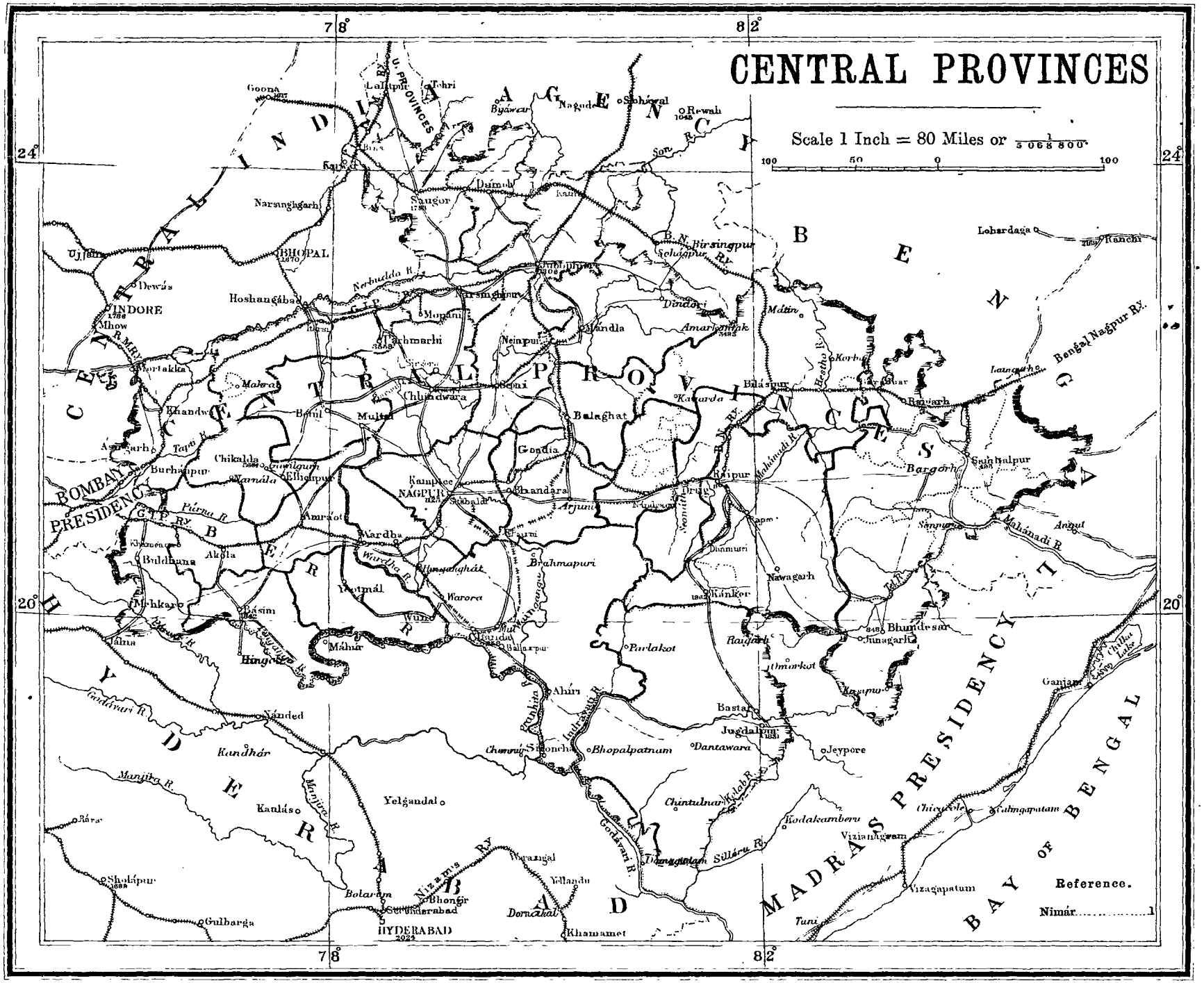
A. M. & J. FERGUSON, Booksellers, Ceylon.



Reg No. 608, Secy., Ch. Commr., C. P.—Nov. 03—330.+25

No. 817. Govt. C. P. Genl. Dept.—Oct. 04—490

No. 408 F. C. C. C. P.—Nov. (5—490)

With additions to Sept. 1905

Litho., S. I. O., Calcutta.

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ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

FOR

THE YEAR 1905-06.

PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Changes in the Administration.

1. The Hon'ble Sir F. S. P. LELY, C.S.I., K.C.I.E., held charge of the office of Chief Commissioner up to the 4th May 1905 and the Hon'ble Mr. J. O. MILLER, C.S.I., for the rest of the year.

Features of the year.

2. The regular monsoon did not set in until the beginning of July, although some early showers allowed sowings to commence in June in the southern and eastern districts. A long break came in the first half of August, which was especially felt in Berar, but in the second half of the month a storm removed some of the anxiety caused by the break. Again, in the second week of September heavy and continuous rain fell over the whole of the Province to the great advantage of the rice crop, and at the close of the month moderate to heavy rain fell again in almost all parts of the Province. There was practically no rain in October, November and December, and the January rainfall was generally in defect, while heavy showers accompanied by hail in February caused some damage to the rabi crops. The rice crop varied much from tract to tract, but while the outturn was nowhere above normal, it was only in parts of Raipur and Bilaspur that there was any serious deficiency. Juar did badly in Berar and in Wardha, where it is a crop of great importance, and the outturn was only a little over 60 per cent of a normal crop, and in consequence both grain and fodder were very scarce. The damage caused by the heavy rain at the end of the monsoon resulted in the yield of cotton being below the average, and the spring crops suffered from the failure of the cold-weather rains. Thus, although the outturn of no particular crop could be called excellent, there was no failure of crops except in a very few tracts and a fair all-round standard was reached. Cotton cultivation continued to extend, a record area being put under this crop, and agricultural stock showed an increase under all the important heads. Thus, while there were no striking incidents during the year, prosperity and steady progress were its prominent features. Cultivation and trade expanded, and the position of the labouring classes was improved.

Relations with Feudatory States.

3. On the 16th October 1905 five States—Patna, Sonpur, Rehrakhol, Kalahandi and Bamra—passed under the political control of the Bengal Government, and five States—Sirguja, Udaipur, Jashpur, Korea and Changbhakhar—formerly attached to Chhota Nagpur, came under the administration of the Central Provinces. Although this change has resulted in an increase of area under the political

control of the Chief Commissioner, there has been a decrease in the total population, gross revenue and tribute. The States enjoyed an excellent harvest and the material condition of the people continued to improve, indications of this being increased receipts under the heads of Excise and Forests, the ease with which the land revenue was collected, and the absence of all serious crime. The financial position of the States is now on a sound basis, and no State is now encumbered. Education continued to make progress in the States which were previously under the Central Provinces Administration, but is very backward in the States recently taken over and measures are under consideration for its improvement. The year was a healthy one, though in two States the death-rate was high owing to the prevalence of fever. Cordial relations continued to be maintained between the Feudatory Chiefs and the officers of Government.

Condition of the people.

4. Although the course of the monsoon caused some anxiety by its late arrival and early withdrawal, there was no failure of crops except in a few villages of Jubbulpore, Bhandara and in parts of Chhattisgarh. The situation in Bilaspur owing to the failure of the rice crop appeared to be critical for a time, but the ordinary works opened by Government failed to attract any large numbers of workers. The cropped area of the Province increased and trade continued to expand. The prosperity of the labouring classes showed another marked advance, especially in the southern districts, where the demand for labour is in excess of the supply owing to the briskness of the cotton trade and the development of the manganese industry. The birth-rate maintained the high level of the last few years, but the year was not a healthy one on the whole and the death-rate rose in spite of the great decline in the figures for plague.

Realization of the revenue.

5. In the Central Provinces it was found necessary to suspend or remit a sum of about 4 lakhs on account of Land Revenue, most of this being in Bhandara and Saugor, where the outturn of the crops was reduced by frost or insufficient rainfall, but no difficulty was experienced in collecting the balance. In Berar, where the season was a prosperous one, the demand was collected almost in full. Throughout the Provinces the use of coercive processes was reduced to a minimum.

Surveys.

6. The traverse survey of 86 square miles was completed by the Imperial Survey Department in 41 villages of the Nimar District, and of one square mile in each of the Saugor and Balaghat Districts. A supplementary topographical survey of 607 square miles in the Narsinghpur District was also completed, and a cadastral survey of 30 square miles in Balaghat and 47 square miles in Seoni was also carried out. In Berar an area of about 77 square miles of land disforested in the old Basim District was measured and classified.

Settlements.

7. Settlement operations were in progress during the year in Mandla, Chanda, Raipur and Bilaspur (khalsa), and a beginning was made with the work of settling the zamindari estates of Bilaspur, while the settlement of the Chanda district was almost finished. The orders of the Government of India on the final settlement reports of Hoshangabad and of the zamindari estates in the Raipur District were received during the year and the proposals for the resettlement of the Wun and Kelapur taluqs in the Yeotmal District of Berar were also sanctioned by the Government of India. Sanction for the commencement of operations in Jubbulpore has been received, and orders have been issued for the settlement, in ryotwari fashion, of the areas excised from Government forest in the Nimar District.

Land Record.

8. No changes of importance were made in the establishment or the distribution of the Land Record staff, but the staff in the Chanda District was strengthened by the addition of one Revenue Inspector and two Patwaris. The work and conduct of the Land Record staff generally was satisfactory, and the testing of land records revealed a very small percentage of inaccuracy, though the reorganization of the inspecting staff in Berar has not yet had time to produce the increased efficiency expected.

Waste Lands.

9. The total area of waste land disforested and thrown open to cultivation under ryotwari tenure amounts to about 1,650 square miles, of which 14 square miles have been disforested during the year under report, and an area of 56,651 acres bearing an assessment of Rs. 13,913 was actually allotted to cultivators, while an area of 355,154 acres is still available for cultivation out of the area that was formerly forest. The demand for land for cultivation was keen in Mandla, Nimar, Balaghat, Seoni, Chanda and Betul. In Berar 40,000 acres have been brought under cultivation in the waste lands of settled villages.

Estates under Court of Wards.

10. The number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards decreased from 99 to 95. Though many of the estates are still in debt, there are now few estates left in which there is any doubt of the ultimate repayment of the debt, and in all doubtful cases steps are being taken to arrive at some practical method of saving the estate or part of the estate. Rental collections in these estates were good, and the receipts from forests, to the working of which much attention has been given in recent years, have risen considerably. In spite of the indebtedness of most of the estates it has been found possible to devote more money to improvements than was possible in the last few years and good progress continues to be made in the reduction of debt, towards which Rs. 1,65,800 were devoted out of current revenue. The experiment of entrusting wards with the management of their own estates, both for the sake of economy and training, has been tried in several cases with good results.

Revenue and rent-paying classes.

11. The bulk of the Provinces enjoyed a year of prosperity; the landlords collected their rents without much difficulty and paid the revenue with ease. There was a considerable increase in the number of transfers of land, but the majority of these were in favour of agriculturists, and there are indications of a marked rise in the value of land. In two districts considerable success was obtained in the conciliation proceedings for the settlement of cultivators' debts, and a beginning has been made with co-operative credit societies, but it is too early yet to prophesy as to their ultimate effect on the prosperity of the people.

Police.

12. The partial failure of the crops in some of the rice tracts and the damage done by frost in the northern districts caused an increase in minor offences against property, and hence there was a slight increase in the Central Provinces in cognizable crime over the low figure of the previous year, while in Berar, as more attention was given to accurate reporting, a comparison with the figures of previous years would be misleading. The number of murders increased, especially in the Chhattisgarh Division, but the increase cannot be attributed to any but accidental causes. The number of dacoities in Berar increased, but there were few cases of a serious nature, and the greater wealth of the people and the presence of larger numbers of immigrants during the harvest season probably account for the greater prevalence of this crime when compared with the Central Provinces. A continuance of the campaign against the professional criminal and an alteration in the system of patrolling roads, on which many of the dacoities occur, are expected to produce

better results. The results of police action from a statistical point of view are somewhat disappointing. This is partly attributed to a mistaken idea of the principles regulating the non-investigation of petty crime, and a more intelligent application of these principles is being insisted upon. Of late years special stress has been laid on the necessity of dealing with wandering gangs of professional criminals and with single professionals who come from outside the Provinces, and this year the campaign met with considerable success, though there is still, however, scope for continued vigorous action against the professional criminal in Berar. The police of adjacent Native States continued to co-operate cordially with the police of these Provinces. Full effect has not yet been given to the reforms enunciated by the Police Commission, but the staff of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors was considerably strengthened and the pay of Constables was raised. The latter measure gave a stimulus to recruitment, and it is only in the Berar districts, where the people are particularly well off, that there has been any serious difficulty in obtaining suitable recruits. The discipline of the force was good and was maintained without excessive recourse to punishment, and the policy of liberally rewarding good work was continued. The Saugor Training School, on which the future morale of the police so much depends, was opened during the year and made an excellent start.

Criminal Justice.

13. The number of cases brought before the Criminal Courts showed a slight increase, but the increase was chiefly in petty crime such as minor offences against the person. Steps are being taken to strengthen the Honorary Magistracy in Berar, where little use has hitherto been made of the assistance of private gentlemen of position in the disposal of criminal cases. The disposal of work by Sessions Courts showed a considerable improvement, which was contributed to by the splitting up of Berar into two Sessions divisions, with a Sessions Judge and an Additional Sessions Judge in each division. The subordinate Courts were not so successful in the despatch of work as in the previous year and the duration of cases in these Courts increased slightly. Fourteen capital sentences were passed or one less than the previous year. The treatment of first offenders is not properly understood, and steps are being taken to explain the policy that should be followed.

Prisons.

14. The result of a year of fair agricultural prosperity was a large decrease both in the number of admissions to jails and in the daily average population, and on the 31st December 1905 the number of prisoners under detention was 200 less than that at the close of the previous year. The general health of the prisoners throughout the year was good. Juvenile offenders under 16 years of age are now detained in the Reformatory School at Jubbulpore, but the best method of dealing with juveniles over this age is a question which is coming into prominence, and the possibility of arranging for the detention of this class of offenders in a separate prison is being considered. The proper treatment of the habitual offender has also been taken up both with regard to his segregation from the casual offender and with regard to the enforcement of a more stringent and deterrent discipline. Discipline was well maintained during the year, and the vigorous measures taken in the case of the Jubbulpore jail in previous years have now proved successful. The cost of the jails in these Provinces is much higher than in other parts of India, and the question of reducing some of the smaller jails to the status of subsidiary jails is under consideration. The management of jail industries continued to receive attention and the profits on the working of factories in Central Jails again rose.

Civil Justice.

15. While there was a slight decrease in the civil litigation in the Provinces, there was a marked rise of five lakhs of rupees in the total value of suits in the Central Provinces, and a fall of one and a half lakhs in Berar. The work was disposed of with fair promptitude, and the changes introduced in the last few years have no doubt produced increased efficiency in the department. The passing of the Berar Courts Law has enabled the organization of the separate staff for Civil Judicial work to be carried out there on the same lines as in the Central Provinces, and the rules and procedure in Berar are now being assimilated as far as possible to those in the Central Provinces. There is a constant tendency for the work in the Court of the Judicial Commissioner to increase, but the pending file has been kept within reasonable limits.

Registration.

16. There was little change in the number of compulsory registrations effected during the year, but their value increased twofold. In the Central Provinces the increase in mortgage transactions as compared with sales, which was a marked feature of the previous year, still continued and may be accepted as a sign of the improvement in the credit of the agricultural classes.

Municipal Administration.

17. There are 58 Municipalities in the Central Provinces and Berar. The Municipality of Sambalpur was transferred to Bengal during the year 1905-06, but this reduction did not affect the total number of the Municipalities, as another Municipality was formed at Malkapur in Berar. The net income of the Municipalities of the Provinces increased by Rs. 1,12,000, and the expenditure increased by Rs. 1,27,000. The general balance at the close of the year was 8 lakhs. Municipal receipts increased under almost every head, and the increase is due partly to the revision of the octroi schedules, but principally to the increasing prosperity of the Provinces as the result of good harvests. In the year under report effect was given to the constitution of the three towns of Etawah in the Saugor District, Itarsi in the Hoshangabad District and Katol in the Nagpur District as notified areas under the special provisions of the Central Provinces Municipal Act, which allow of the extension to smaller towns of a modified form of municipal government suited to their needs. No work of special importance was undertaken in any Municipality during the year, but the expenditure on special measures in connection with plague increased by Rs. 3,000. This increase took place chiefly in the Municipality of Nagpur, where the epidemic assumed a virulent form in January and lasted till April 1906. The increase in the closing balances at the end of the year under report, *viz.*, from Rs. 7,19,000 to Rs. 7,85,000, shows that the financial position of the municipal towns is sound. The relations existing between Municipal Committees and the officers of Government have continued to be excellent. Acting on suggestions made to them, several Committees have shown great activity in drawing up schemes for the provision of a good water-supply and a good drainage system.

District Councils and Local Boards.

18. There are now 20 District Councils and 72 Local Boards in the Provinces, the reduction of the number of districts in Berar and the transfer of Sambalpur to Bengal being responsible for the decrease. The general income of these bodies has increased by over two and a half lakhs of rupees, the increase being due to the receipt of large grants from Provincial Revenues. Apart from this the variations in the receipts in the Central Provinces were unimportant. An increase of Rs. 21,937 in Berar under receipts from pounds is attributed in part to the spread of cotton cultivation and the consequent diminution of the fodder

supply. There has been a general increase in expenditure, as the grant on behalf of primary education enabled District Councils in the Central Provinces to spend more money on the improvement of the pay of the teaching staff and on the construction of schools, but in Berar the special grant was not fully utilised. With larger funds it was also possible to devote more attention to communications and arboriculture. The increase in expenditure, however, was not in proportion to the rise in income and the closing balances have risen. In general it may be said that the failure of District Councils to work up to budget provision is due to the lack of carefully worked out schemes and programmes, and to a deficiency in businesslike administration. An improvement in this respect is likely to follow from the policy of delegating powers to Local Boards, which is now being taken up.

The Agricultural Department.

19. The Agricultural Department was re-organized during the year. A separate post of Director was created, and a staff of two expert Agriculturists, one an Agricultural Chemist and the other a Botanist, was sanctioned. Much of the time of the Director during the past year was devoted to the working out of schemes for the immediate expenditure of a special grant of Rs. 2,20,000 and for the ultimate expansion of the Department, and the greater part of the grant was expended in enlarging the existing experimental stations, in establishing a new one in Berar in connection with cotton cultivation, and in providing quarters for the staff, but it will be some time before the experimental stations, with the exception of the well-established farm at Nagpur, produce any useful results. Imported varieties of cotton, with the exception of Upland Georgian, have all proved failures, but efforts are being made to improve the local varieties of cotton by the establishment of four farms, the cultivators of which are supplied with selected cotton seed and guaranteed against loss if they follow the instructions of the Department in its cultivation. Demonstrations of improved methods of cultivation and of the use of simple agricultural machinery continued to be made, but progress in producing practical results is necessarily slow. The work of the Veterinary Department continued to expand, and there are indications that the cultivators are beginning to realize the value of scientific treatment for the ailments of their cattle. The Agricultural School attached to the Nagpur Experimental Farm continued to do good work and it has been decided to raise its status to that of a College with a three years' course.

Weather and crops.

20. The monsoon did not break until the middle of July and except in the second week of September was light; it withdrew unusually early at the close of September. The cold-weather rainfall was generally deficient, and the rain that fell in the north and east of the Provinces during the first half of February was accompanied by hail, which damaged the standing crops. The average rainfall in the Central Provinces was 43·08 inches, which is five inches below the average of the last 38 years, while in Berar the rainfall was within one inch of the normal. The rainfall in the rice districts was not uniform, and whereas parts of Raipur, Nagpur and the western part of Bhandara had almost a normal crop, elsewhere three-quarters or less of a normal harvest was reaped, and in the west of Bilaspur the failure of the crop caused some apprehension. Juar did well in the northern districts, but in Berar and Wardha only 60 per cent of a normal crop was recorded. The heavy rain in September caused the yield of cotton to be below the average, especially in Berar. The spring crops suffered from lack of moisture, and a good deal of damage resulted in Berar and in the south and east of the

Central Provinces; but in spite of scanty rainfall the wheat crop of the Nerbudda Valley and the plateau districts except Seoni was above the normal. The yield of the Provinces all round was nearly equal to the normal. The cropped area of the Provinces differed but little from that of the previous year. While the area under cotton continued to expand, an increase of 20,000 acres being recorded, the area under spring crops in the Central Provinces decreased by 253,000 acres and in Berar by 34,000 acres, the decrease being partly attributed to the losses caused by the frost of the previous year.

Forests.

21. The area of the State forests was reduced by 218 square miles and now amounts to 22,525 square miles. The decrease was due to the excision of jungle in Berar for purposes of cultivation and grazing. A detachment of the Forest Survey of India continued their work in Berar and surveyed 251 square miles of forest reserves and completed 239 miles of plane-table traverses, and much attention continued to be given to the work of demarcation in the same circle. One new working-plan for the Mandla Division was sanctioned during the year, and the preparation of these plans continued elsewhere. Considerable expenditure was devoted to the construction and repairs of forest roads. In spite of an unfavourable season the results of fire-protection were satisfactory. The financial results of the year were excellent, the net surplus reaching the record figure of 10 lakhs of rupees. This income was obtained with little or no increase in expenditure. The greater part of the outturn of forest produce was removed by the agency of purchasers, but some important departmental works were in progress in Mandla in connection with the supply of sál timber to the Ordnance Factory at Jubbulpore and to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. There was a considerable curtailment of sleeper-cutting operations in Balaghat, as the work of converting the material remaining from the trees previously sawn up for broad-gauge sleepers was taken up.

Mines and quarries.

22. A company was formed for the working of the coal found in the valley of the Pench river in the Chhindwara District and a new mine opened. The construction of new railways on the Satpura plateau should ensure the success of this enterprise. The Warora colliery in the Chanda District, formerly the most important in the Provinces, was closed after the end of the year on the grounds of safety and economy, and attention will now be concentrated on the new mine at Ballarpur in the same district. The Mohpani Colliery in the Narsinghpur District passed into the hands of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, and it is hoped that this mine, which has been languishing for want of capital, will now be properly developed. The temporary closure of the manganese industry in the Caucasus led to a largely increased demand for Indian manganese, and the manganese industry continued its rapid development, though it was somewhat hampered by the scarcity of labour, which is in some cases now being imported from outside the Provinces. The number of prospecting licenses granted during the year was 27, and there has been no diminution in the interest shown by the commercial public in the mineral resources of the Provinces.

Manufactures

23. The total number of factories in the Provinces rose from 155 to 201, the new factories being mostly in Berar. Nine-tenths of the factories are cotton gins and presses, which work only during a portion of the year. The health of the operatives and the sanitary condition of the factories are generally reported to be good, but the rapid extension of factories and the increase in the number

of operatives have brought into prominence the question of restricting the hours of adult labour and of regulating the employment of children. Inspections have not revealed any serious violation of the provisions of the Factories Act.

Prices and Trade.

24. The prices of food-grain were higher than those of the previous year owing to large exports to other parts of India where there had been a failure of crops. The price of cotton, which at the close of the previous year had fallen from Rs. 23 per maund to Rs. 15-4-0 per maund, has since risen steadily. The total volume of trade of the Provinces exceeded the figures for the previous year by $8\frac{1}{2}$ million maunds, while its total value increased by 5 crores of rupees. Both imports and exports show an increase; that in the former consisted mostly of coal and coke, sugar, spices, kerosene-oil, European piece-goods and salt, and that in the latter of raw cotton, agricultural produce, fodder and metal. The total balance of trade in favour of the Provinces was more than 10 crores.

Public Works.

25 The most important Imperial work undertaken during the year was the sinking of two pits at the new colliery at Ballarpur at a cost of over Rs. 73,000. Over 33 lakhs of rupees were spent on Provincial works, of which 16 lakhs were utilized in the construction of new roads and buildings, while the remainder was spent on repairs and establishment. Considerable sums were devoted to the erection of new Tahsil offices, new Forest offices, and bonded warehouses for the Excise Department. The extension of school-buildings in Berar, especially with regard to the provision of hostels, continued to receive attention. The construction of the new Secretariat building in Nagpur is in progress, the total expenditure incurred up to the end of the financial year being Rs. 60,041. Considerable progress was made with the construction of the District Court-house at Drug and of new Civil Courts elsewhere. Large sums were spent in providing new Police buildings, on the extension of the farm buildings under the Agricultural Department, and on the construction and acquisition of residences for Government officials. The total outlay on original communications amounted to over $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees. Road construction was in progress in all parts of the Provinces, a feature of the year being the commencement of important lines of through communication between contiguous districts of the Central Provinces and Berar and the opening of short railway feeder roads on the Nainpur-Seoni section of the Satpura Railway. Nearly $7\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs were spent on repairs to existing roads. The important question of arboriculture received more attention during the year.

Irrigation.

26. The area irrigated in 1904-05 was nearly double that of 1903-04, when the distribution of the rainfall was such as to necessitate the watering of the crops, and though this year there was a drop of 20,000 acres, the area irrigated—611,783 acres—is still large. Tanks filled well except in Seoni, Bilaspur and Chanda, where they were short of water; in other rice districts the late monsoon was sufficient and irrigation unnecessary. State irrigation in these Provinces is still in an experimental stage. The total expenditure on major and minor works was Rs. 9,71,762 and Rs. 3,72,779 respectively. The total area irrigated from purely State works was 12,819 acres. The value, direct and indirect, of the irrigation done during the year is estimated at Rs. 15,927. Six large tanks were practically finished and five are now under construction. Thirty-four major irrigation schemes were under investigation. The minor irrigation works in progress included 45 State minor tanks, 86 grant- in-aid tanks and 42 field embankments; some of these were practically finished and the field

embankments have already given successful results. Over 800 projects were surveyed and examined in the specially constituted Famine Survey Divisions at a cost of over 2 lakhs of rupees.

27. The gross revenue, excluding Municipal and Excluded Local Funds, rose by 12 lakhs—from 189½ to 201½ lakhs. The Imperial Revenues made a special contribution of Rs. 10,61,000 for Civil Works and for the improvement of the Police, Education and Agricultural Departments and for the loss sustained on account of the remission of famine cess, and an initial grant of 30 lakhs was also made to start the new settlement which came into operation at the close of the year. The chief increases in receipts were 6½ lakhs under Excise and 4 lakhs under Forest. The increase under Excise was mainly due to the introduction of the contract supply system into Berar and six districts of the Central Provinces consequent on the recommendations of the Excise Committee which was convened by the Chief Commissioner in 1904. There was also an increase of expenditure of 7½ lakhs over that of last year, due to the reorganization of the Police and Excise Departments and to a larger contribution to Local Funds for the improvement of primary education and civil works. The revenues of Berar rose from 127 lakhs in 1904-05 to 140 lakhs in 1905-06. The increase was principally under Excise. The expenditure amounted to 66 lakhs—4 lakhs in excess of the figures of the previous year. Half the excess was due to expenditure on Public Works. There was a net surplus of 70 lakhs against 61 lakhs in the previous year. **Revenue and Finance.**

28. In spite of the diminution of plague, which was responsible for the comparatively small number of 12,706 deaths, the year was not a healthy one. The birth-rate, which has been steadily rising for some years, again rose as high as 54·02 per mille, while the death-rate, which had fallen in the previous year to 32·06 per mille, rose to 37·21. There was a large increase in the deaths from small-pox, especially among children, those districts suffering most where the work of vaccination had been interrupted by epidemics of plague in previous years, but more than half the mortality of the year is ascribed to fever and allied complaints, which are found to be specially prevalent when, as in the present case, a heavy monsoon follows a year of unusual dryness. **Vital statistics.**

29. The number of emigrants to the tea gardens of Assam increased from 2,708 in the previous year to 3,690, who were accompanied by 1,265 dependants. Most of the increase occurred in the Bilaspur District, where there was a partial failure of the rice crop, but the increase is likely to be temporary, as the demand for labour is now very great in many parts of the Provinces. The health of the emigrants was good and their accommodation was under close supervision. Irregularities in recruiting were few, and no offences of any importance against the provisions of the Act came to the notice of the Courts. **Emigration.**

30. The transfer of Sambalpur to Bengal resulted in a decrease in the number of dispensaries from 243 to 235, though including Local Fund, Railway, Mission and other private dispensaries, 14 new institutions were opened. The dispensaries maintained by Missions and other private bodies continued to do excellent work and the total number of patients in dispensaries of all classes increased by 8 per cent. There was a slight falling-off in the matter of private subscriptions, principally in Berar. The population of the two lunatic asylums remained practically unchanged, and criminal lunatics continued to form about 25 per cent of the total number of inmates. A change of diet at the Nagpur Lunatic Asylum **Medical Relief.**

resulted in a considerable improvement in the health of the inmates, but the mortality in both asylums increased, though in neither case was it due to other than natural causes. The scheme for the establishment of a central asylum at Chhindwara has been abandoned.

Sanitation.

31. No important works in connection with sanitation were constructed during the year by the Public Works Department. The water-supply was improved in the Municipalities of Seoni Bhandara and Amraoti, and the Municipalities of Nagpur, Jubbulpore, Khandwa, Seoni and Raipur all spent money on the improvement of drainage. Municipalities have hitherto not done much in the way of providing themselves with a proper drainage system owing to the want of competent advice, and the proposal to appoint a Sanitary Engineer for the Provinces is under consideration. The development of rural sanitation continues to be slow, but the important question of improving the water-supply in rural areas has lately received much attention at the hands of the Sanitary Board and of District Councils.

Vaccination.

32. The record of vaccination work was good and the total number of primary vaccinations rose by 5 per cent, while 97·1 of the operations were returned as successful. There was also a considerable increase in the number of vaccinations partly due to special efforts made to impress the people with the wisdom of adopting this protection, and partly to the prevalence of small-pox in parts of the Province. The mortality from this disease was higher than in any of the ten preceding years and may be attributed in part to the neglect of re-vaccination in the past. The Vaccination Act was extended to two towns.

Education.

33. Excluding the Feudatory States, where owing to exchange with Bengal no comparison is possible, the number of scholars increased by 11,731. The liberal grant of two lakhs made by the Government of India for primary education enabled District Councils to make considerable improvements in the accommodation and furniture of their schools ; part of the grant was set aside for the improvement of the efficiency of the teaching staff, but owing to the dearth of qualified teachers it was not always possible to spend the amount allotted for this purpose, as the Training Schools are still unable to cope with the demand for certificated teachers. Secondary education continued to make progress and Vernacular Middle Schools appear to be regaining their popularity. The work of the Colleges in Nagpur suffered from the effects of plague. Technical education in the Provinces can hardly be said to exist at present, but the opening of the Victoria Technical Institute at Nagpur may have some influence on its future development. The progress of female education was indicated both by the increase in the number of schools and the increase in the attendance, and it was found necessary to appoint two Assistant Inspectresses to relieve the Inspectress of part of her touring work. In Berar all girls' schools which have hitherto been maintained by local bodies were provincialised.

PART II.

CHAPTER I.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

At pages 1 to 52 of the Report on the Administration of the Central Provinces for 1901-02 and at pages 1 to 25 of the Report on the Administration of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts for the same year will be found an account of the following subjects drawn up for standard reference. Certain portions of the information given are rendered obsolete owing to the transfer of the major portion of the Sambalpur District and the Feudatory States of Patna, Sonpur, Rehrakhol, Kalahandi and Bamra from the Central Provinces to Lower Bengal and the transfer of the Chhota Nagpur States—Sirguja, Udaipur, Jashpur, Korea and Changbhakar—from Lower Bengal to the Central Provinces with effect from the 16th October 1905, and by the division of the Raipur, Bilaspur and remainder of the Sambalpur District into three districts on the formation of the Drug District on 1st January 1906.

1.—PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY, AREA, CLIMATE, &c.

[1.—The area of the Central Provinces is now 113,281 square miles of which 82,093 are British Territory and the remainder are held by independent Native Chiefs.]

[7.—VII. The Uriya country has been transferred to Bengal.]

2.—HISTORICAL SUMMARY.

3.—FORM OF ADMINISTRATION.

[For an account of the "Form of Administration" in Berar, see paragraph 2 of Part II of the Administration Report of the Central Provinces for 1903-04.]

4.—CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES.

5.—SYSTEM OF SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT.

6.—CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY.

[65.—For details of Chhattisgarh Division substitute :—

Division.	Districts.	Tahsils.	Area and population of tahsils.
Chhattisgarh—area 21,240 square miles, population 2,642,983.	Raipur—area 9,831 square miles, population 1,096,858.	Raipur ...	Area 1,016 square miles. Population 246,514.
		Mahasamund ...	Area 5,284 square miles. Population 398,075.
		Baloda Bazar ...	Area 1,933 square miles. Population 264,063.
		Dhamtari ...	Area 5,284 square miles. Population 188,206.
	Bilaspur—area 7,602 square miles, population 917,240.	Bilaspur ..	Area 3,111 square miles. Population 321,915.
		Mungeli ...	Area 1,452 square miles. Population 177,116.
		Janjgir ...	Area 3,039 square miles. Population 418,209.
	Drug—area 3,807 square miles, population 628,885.	Drug ...	Area 924 square miles. Population 189,643.
		Bemetara ...	Area 1,566 square miles. Population 240,843.
		Sanjari ...	Area 1,317 square miles. Population 198,399.

7.—DETAILS OF THE LAST CENSUS—TRIBES AND LANGUAGES.

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

8.—CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

2. The Hon'ble Sir F. S. P. LELY, C.S I., K.C.I.E., held charge of the office of Chief Commissioner up to the 4th of May 1905 and the Hon'ble Mr. J. O. MILLER, C. S. I., for the rest of the year.

RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES.

9.—RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES.

[Report on the administration of the Feudatory States of the Central Provinces for the year 1905.]

Changes in the administration.

3. The chief administrative event of importance during the year under review was the transfer on 16th October 1905 of the five States of Patna, Sonpur, Rehrakhol, Kalahandi and Bamra to the political control of the Bengal Government, and the assumption by the Administration of the control of the five States of Sirguja, Udaipur, Jashpur, Korea and Changbhakhar formerly under the charge of the Commissioner, Chhota Nagpur. The new States are for the most part sparsely inhabited, with deficient means of communication, and though the change has resulted in a considerable increase in the area under the charge of the Political Agent, the total population, gross revenue and tribute of the States now comprised in the Chhattisgarh Agency are all less than in the period prior to the exchange.

In the year under review 6 of the 15 Feudatory Chiefs, namely, those of Bastar, Sarangarh, Kawardha, Chhuikhadan, Nandgaon and Udaipur, were minors, and their States were in consequence managed by Superintendents appointed by Government. The Chiefs of Sakti and Makrai administered their States under the guidance of officers deputed by Government to their service, and the remaining 7 States were administered directly by their ruling Chiefs.

Rainfall and crops.

4. The year opened with excellent prospects for the spring crops, and a good harvest was reaped. The total rainfall of the year was in considerable excess in Nandgaon and Kawardha, while Udaipur and Raigarh alone recorded any noticeable deficiency. The monsoon, however, was late in arrival, and its distribution was unequal and unfavourable to germination.

Trade and prices.

5. On the whole the year was not one of high prices, and although prices of food stuffs rose somewhat above the normal in Kanker and Khairagarh, in the remaining States the good spring harvest kept them down to their usual level. A considerable export trade was carried on during the year in rice, hides and timber, but the system of registration being incomplete no details of the amount and nature of the goods that passed are available.

Condition of the people.

6. In spite of the somewhat unfavourable character of the past two seasons, no serious decrease in the area under cultivation is reported in any State. On the other hand, the cultivated area of Nandgaon increased owing to the easy assessments of the current settlement; and substantial increases are also reported from Khairagarh and Kawardha. The States were again free from epidemic disease, and except in Nandgaon and Kawardha the year was a healthy one. In these two States the somewhat high death-rate was due to the prevalence of fever.

Finance.

7. Financially, the past year has been one of continued prosperity, and in the majority of the States the income of the year largely exceeded the average gross revenue of the past five years—a satisfactory indication of the progress made towards recovery from the effects of the famines. The last instalment of the loan due from the Nandgaon State to Government was paid, and all the States under management are now unencumbered by liabilities. Government securities to the value of $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees are now held by the Chiefs.

Land Revenue.

8. One of the most satisfactory features of the year is the ease with which the land revenue demand was realized in all the States, and the insignificant number of cases in which resort to any form of coercive process was necessary. Some discontent was caused at first by the summary settlement of the Raigarh State, but it is reported to have been without foundation, and to have rapidly died down. The care and moderation with which the revised settlements of Bastar and Sarangarh, sanctioned during the year, were drawn

RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES.

up are indicated by the total absence of complaints and by the ease with which the new demands have been realized. In the recently transferred States no regular system of settlement appears to exist.

Settlement.

9. In Khairagarh considerable progress was made with settlement work, and since the close of the year the settlement has been practically completed. In Sakti the Diwan carried through the work of re-settlement and the proposals are under consideration.

Law, crime and justice.

10. The criminal statistics for the year are chiefly remarkable for the total absence of any organized crime, from which the Feudatory States have always been conspicuously free. The very considerable decrease in the number of offences reported to the police as compared with last year was due in great part to the exchange of States, crime in the more backward of the new States being comparatively rare and generally petty in character. As a result, the Police forces in these States are small, and for the most part ill paid and insufficient. There was no marked variation in the number of civil suits and, on the whole, the administration of justice, both criminal and civil, was carried out with care and expedition, and the respect which was commanded by the Courts is indicated by the comparatively small number of appeals which were filed against their decisions.

Jails.

11. The number of prisoners in jail did not vary to any marked extent and the jail administration was in all States well conducted and the health of the prisoners good. New jail buildings were under construction at Chhuikhadan and at Sirguja.

Forests.

12. There was an increase in forest revenue during the year in all Chhattisgarh States. The question of the appointment of an Agency Forest Officer, to take charge of the forests of those States which are under direct management, is still in abeyance, pending a decision as to which States will co-operate in the scheme, and the amount of contributions that will be necessary. Meanwhile, the growth of forest income in all the States, due to improved means of communication, to the expansion of trade, and in particular to the increasing demand for railway sleepers, renders the question of the systematic management of the forests even more important than before. The only progress in forest management made during the year has been the elaboration of a plan, which is now under consideration, for the formation of forest reserves in Bastar. The Chhota Nagpur States contain exceptionally large forest areas, and here too the demand for timber and the need for expert advice are beginning to be felt.

Excise.

13. A general increase is shown in the excise revenue of the States, but the rise is reported to be due, not to any increase in the drinking habits of the people, but to a fairly prosperous season, and to special causes, such as the influx of labourers into Kawardha on the commencement of sleeper-cutting operations. Of the Chhota Nagpur States only Sirguja and Jashpur possess any regulated system of excise, though attempts are being made both in Udaipur and in Korea to secure a more systematic management of the revenue under this head.

Education.

14. The transfer to Bengal of 4 out of the 12 States which are under the supervision of the Agency Inspector of Schools makes it difficult to compare the educational statistics of the past year with those of previous years. In the 8 States which remain under the Inspector, the number of schools increased slightly and the number of pupils considerably. The continued rise in the number of aborigines under instruction is again a satisfactory feature of the report, and it will be interesting to observe the progress that is made in this direction when the Chhota Nagpur States have been brought under the supervision of the Agency Inspector. Proposals to this effect have recently been sanctioned, and the Sakti schools have also been brought under his supervision. There are only 32 schools in the whole of the five new States, and in practically all of these the teaching is reported to be bad, and the attendance poor.

Rajkumar College.

15. The Rajkumar College in Raipur has made satisfactory progress during the year. The health of the boys has been well maintained and their conduct has been excellent. Proposals are under consideration for placing the College on a more satisfactory financial basis, for the re-organization of the staff, and

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for having the diploma of the College recognized as equivalent to an Entrance Examination certificate.

Public works.

16. The expenditure on public works carried out under the supervision of the Executive Engineer decreased to some extent. Existing roads were maintained in good repair and progress was made with the Jagdalpur-Chanda and Dongargarh-Pandaria roads, and three roads in the Kalahandi State were completed. Now that the Kalahandi and Patna States have both been transferred to Bengal, it is hoped that it will soon be possible to relieve the Executive Engineer of the charge of these States. The number of States under his charge remained the same as in the previous year; but arrangements have now been made to place under his supervision the Udaipur State, where a large balance is available and many improvements to buildings and means of communication are needed.

Berar.

17. There are no Feudatory States in Berar.

10.—CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

The Season.

18. The year now under review did not open with very bright prospects. Severe frost had done serious damage to the spring crops and the rainfall in the month of June was in considerable defect throughout the province. The regular monsoon did not set in until the beginning of July, when moderate to heavy rain continued throughout the month, and a long break came in the first half of August, the effect of which was especially felt in Berar and in the southern and central districts of the Central Provinces. In the latter half of the month, however, came a welcome storm which improved the situation. This was followed by a heavy and continuous fall of rain during the second week of September which was very beneficial to the rice crop. Except for a few light showers, there was no rain after the beginning of October. Thus the monsoon was late in arrival and withdrew somewhat early, but although it did not reach all tracts alike it was only in a few villages of Jubbulpore and Bhandara and in parts of Chhattisgarh that there was any failure of crops. On the whole, the condition of the agricultural classes has been satisfactory, and the cropped area of the provinces has increased, the increase being greatest in the valuable kharif staples—rice and cotton. The labouring classes also are benefiting by the general prosperity, especially in the southern districts, where the demand for labour is in excess of the supply owing to the briskness of the cotton trade and the exploitation of the manganese deposits.

Trade.

19. There was a considerable expansion of trade, exports increasing by 26 per cent and imports by 9 per cent. The imports of grain and pulse again fell, while the exports largely increased with the famines in other parts of the country. The increase in the imports of sugar, spices, kerosine oil and European piece-goods is a reliable indication of increasing prosperity, and the increase in the import of salt is a result of the decrease of duty. The export trade in raw cotton and fodder again showed a considerable expansion and the manganese trade more than recovered itself. The balance of trade in favour of the province reached the large figure of 10 crores.

Plague.

20. A most welcome feature of the year under report has been the great diminution in the virulence of plague, amounting to no less than 71 per cent, the districts and towns of Nagpur and Jubbulpore being almost immune. Evacuation of infected localities is now readily accepted, and it is satisfactory that the part played by rats in the spread of the disease is becoming generally recognised, and with the abandonment of methods of coercion, the people of all classes are adopting a more sympathetic attitude towards the measures taken by Government to combat the epidemic.

Summary.

21. The Provinces as a whole enjoyed a year of prosperity and the economic condition of the people was good. The birth-rate maintained its high level and the criminal statistics showed no marked change from the low figures of the previous years.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

REALIZATION OF THE REVENUE.

REALIZATION OF THE REVENUE.

[Resolution on the Revenue administration of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th September 1905, paragraph 7 and following, and of Berar for the year 1904-05, paragraph 10 and following.]

The Central Provinces.

22. The total demand of ordinary land revenue on the roll at the end of the year in the Central Provinces stood at Rs. 85,80,685, showing a net increase of Rs. 3,899 only, as abatements of land revenue in Narsinghpur and Hoshangabad almost exactly counterbalanced the increase in revenue resulting from the revision of the land revenue assessment in Sambalpur. Out of the current demand it was found necessary to suspend or remit about 4 lakhs, most of this being in Bhandara and Saugor, where the outturn of the crops was reduced by frost or insufficient rainfall. When these deductions however had been made, almost the whole of the revenue demanded was collected, the unsuspended balance only amounting to Rs. 21,000. The revenue accounts are almost clear, and the balance due from former years amounts only to Rs. 13,500, a sum of Rs. 38,500 having been collected during the year on account of arrears.

Berar.

23. Cultivators in Berar had a prosperous year and out of a total demand of Rs. 87,38,274 all but Rs 701 was collected. The revenue demand shows an increase of over 2 lakhs on that of the previous year, due to the revision of assessment. The demand was collected almost in full.

Coercive processes.

24. Both in the Central Provinces and Berar the land revenue has been realized with far less recourse to coercive processes than was the case in former years. The percentage of the land revenue in the Central Provinces collected without the use of any coercive measure is even higher than the high figure of the previous year The sales of land attached for arrears of revenue fell from 61 to 47 and there was a similar decrease in Berar. Although the number of persons arrested increased by 28, only one defaulter in the Central Provinces was confined in the Civil Jail, and in Berar this course was not found necessary in a single case.

Government loans.

25. The Government Loan Account (principal) is shown in thousands of rupees in the following statement. The figures are for the financial year ending the 31st March 1906:—

	Under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.		Under the Land Improvement Loans Act.	
	With interest.	Without interest.	With interest.	Without interest.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Outstanding at the commencement of the year, *i. e.*, on 1st April 1905.	235	121	418	...
Remitted during the year 1905-06 ...	12	28	9	...
Collected do. ...	325	74	108	...
Advanced do. ...	400	...	107	...
Outstanding at the close of the year, *i. e.*, on 31st March 1906.	298	19	408	...

The advances made during the year were comparatively small, the total amount of 5 lakhs being only slightly larger than that of the preceding year. The collections under the Agriculturists' Loans Act were not quite so good, but the remissions on the other hand were very much less in amount The loans were generally granted on the joint responsibility of the borrowers in each village and the system is now familiar to the people and is worked without difficulty.

REALIZATION OF THE REVENUE.

Advances for field improvements were taken chiefly in the northern districts, especially in Nimar, where there is a steady and spontaneous demand for loans for the construction of wells and field embankments and for clearing waste land. The collections on account of land improvement loans were almost double those of the preceding year. The total amount of Government loans outstanding for collection is now only $7\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs. In Berar owing to the prosperous conditions prevailing loan transactions are insignificant.

SURVEYS.

2.—SURVEYS.

26. During the field season of 1905-06 the traverse survey of an area of 86 square miles was completed in 41 villages of the Nimar District, and one square mile in each of the Saugor and Balaghat Districts. A supplementary topographical survey of 607 square miles in the Narsinghpur District was also completed. The cadastral survey of the following areas was carried out by the agency of the Land Record Department under the direction of an Assistant Settlement Officer in each district:—

(i) Thirty square miles in 20 villages in the Balaghat District.

(ii) Forty-seven square miles in 21 villages (of which 2 had been surveyed for the first time) and portions of 74 other villages in the Seoni District.

Berar.—A survey party consisting of a Nimtandar and 9 classers and measurers was employed (since November 1905) for the completion of the division and classification of the lands disforested in the old Basim District. An area amounting to nearly 10,950 acres (or about 17 square miles) was measured and classified and 4,735 boundary marks were erected.

SETTLEMENTS.

3.—SETTLEMENTS.

27. The orders of the Government of India on the final settlement reports of Hoshangabad and the Zamindari Estates in the Raipur District were received during the year. The review on the final settlement report of the Drug District and proposals for the inception of settlement operations in the Jubbulpore District were submitted for the orders of the Government of India towards the close of the year and orders for the commencement of operations in Jubbulpore have since been issued. The period of settlement in the Damoh District expired on the 30th June, but as circumstances were not favourable for re-settlement it was decided on the recommendation of the Settlement Commissioner that the commencement of operations should be postponed for another year. Orders were issued during the year for the settlement of the Zamindari estates in the Bilaspur District and for the settlement, in ryotwari fashion, of the areas excised from Government forest in the Nimar District.

Berar.—The orders of the Government of India on the proposals for the revision settlement of the Wun, Kelapur and Yeotmal taluqs in the Yeotmal District were received and the revised rates of the two former were sanctioned and duly announced. The new rates will be leviable from the revenue year 1906-07.

Settlement operations were continued in the districts of Mandla, Chanda (khalsa and zamindaris), Raipur and Bilaspur (khalsa). Operations were also commenced in the zamindari estates of the Bilaspur District and are steadily progressing.

Balaghat.—The balance of the map-correction work in the Baihar Tahsil left over at the close of the last year was completed during the year under report. Records of 131 villages out of the balance of 153 left last year have been completed. The total cost of operations amounted to Rs. 11,572.

Seoni.—Map correction was started in the Seoni Tahsil, and an area of 1,177 square miles extending over 729 villages was completed by the close of the year. The maps in 913 villages with an area of 1,305 square miles remained to be corrected. Records of all the 729 villages had been completed. The total cost of the year's operations amounted to Rs. 11,503.

Mandla.—498 villages were attested during the year. The Settlement Officer completed the inspection of 457. A balance of 478 villages for attestation and of 680 for inspection was thus left over at the close of the year. The rent-rate proposals in respect of 265 villages submitted last year had to be revised in accordance with the orders of the Government of India on the preliminary report, which were received rather late, and fresh proposals for only 104 villages, comprising an area of 139 square miles, were submitted. The cost of the year's operations amounted to Rs. 49,481.

Chanda.—The Assistant Settlement Officer completed the inspection of the 25 villages left over at the close of the last year. Proposals for rent-rating 3 malguzari villages covering an area of 4 square miles and for 26 ryotwari villages with an area of 39 square miles were submitted, as also the assessment proposals for 144 ryotwari villages covering an area of 185 square miles. The work in Chanda was thus practically finished, and the winding up of the operations is in progress. The total cost of the operations during the year amounted to Rs 29,478.

Sambalpur.—This district was handed over to the Bengal Government at the beginning of the year. The operations were therefore confined only to the estates of Chandrapur and Padampur transferred to the Bilaspur District and to the Phuljhar Zamindaris transferred to the Raipur District. An assessment report for the 520 villages of the latter zamindari, comprising an area of 554 square miles, was submitted. All but the announcement of rents and revenue in these estates is finished, and it is expected that the winding up of the operations will occupy about half of next year. The total cost of the operations during the year amounted to Rs. 29,340, about two-thirds of which will be chargeable to the Bengal Government for the portion transferred.

Raipur.—The maps of 98 villages, covering an area of 188 square miles, were corrected and those of the remaining 98, with an area of 182 square miles, were left over for correction. Records were also prepared for 95 villages. The attestation of 376 villages and the inspection of 558 were completed, leaving a balance of 633 for attestation and 796 for inspection at the close of the year. Rent-rate proposals were submitted for 169 villages comprising an area of 294 square miles. The total cost of the year's operations was Rs. 1,719 on map correction and Rs. 54,243 on regular settlement operations.

Bilaspur Khalsa.—228 villages of the Bilaspur and Mungeli Tahsils were attested and 437 were inspected by the Settlement Officer during the year. The balance at the close of the year was 512 villages for attestation and 798 for inspection. The total cost of the operations during the year amounted to Rs. 47,379.

Bilaspur Zamindaris.—The attestation of 216 villages and the inspection of 144 villages was completed, a balance of 1,211 villages for attestation and of 1,283 for inspection being left over at the close of the year. The total cost of the operations amounted to Rs. 23,854.

Nagpur.—Rent-rate and assessment proposals for two ryotwari villages in the Ramtek Tahsil with an area of one square mile were submitted and the sanctioned revenue was announced during the year by the Land Record agency.

Bhandara.—Nothing deserving of special mention was done here except the submission of a rent-rate report for nine ryotwari villages in the Sakoli Tahsil.

Nimar.—The announcement of two malguzari villages and four thekadari police abadi villages, of which the assessment proposals were submitted last year, was completed. This brought on an increment of Rs. 879 in the revenue demand of these villages. An expenditure of Rs. 569 was incurred on the staff entertained for training candidates for the ryotwari survey to be accomplished next season.

LAND RECORDS.

4.—LAND RECORDS.

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Department in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1905.]

Establishment.

28. There were no changes of great importance made in the establishment or the distribution of the Land Record staff. In the Seoni District some proposals for the revision of the Patwari circles were sanctioned and these resulted in a redistribution of villages and in the addition of one more Patwari circle. Three Patwaris' circles were transferred from the Hoshangabad District to Nimar. The revision and strengthening of the Land Record staff in the Chhindwara Jagirs, which was sanctioned last year, has been brought into effect, and by this change one Revenue Inspector and 22 Patwaris have been added to the establishment. Similarly, the revision of the Patwaris' circles in the Chanda District, which was also sanctioned last year, has come into force, and the staff has been strengthened by the addition of one Revenue Inspector and two Patwaris. In the districts in Berar in which the new administrative system has only recently been introduced, the staff have found it difficult to adapt their arrangements to the changed conditions, and they were also impeded by having other unusual work to do, as Inspectors were employed for a time in the destruction of locusts, and some had to go through a training in survey. From the careful attention which has been paid to this matter greater accuracy in the papers drawn up may in future be expected.

Boundary marks.

29. Village boundary marks were generally well maintained in good order, but traverse stations, which are maintained chiefly in the interests of Government, were not so well looked after. For boundary marks in Berar new rules are to be issued, under which the work of Circle Inspectors will be lightened and greater efficiency may be demanded.

Utilization of land records.

30. The circle note-books have now been completely written up except in some parts of two districts. The village note-books also have been brought up to date in all villages. Greater accuracy is now secured in the figures than was possible when the books were first compiled

Testing of land records

31. The checking of land records by Revenue Inspectors and Superintendents was satisfactory. Deputy Commissioners and their assistants were again able to devote considerable time to this work; the percentage of inaccuracy discovered over the Central Provinces has fallen from 1·99 to 1·72.

Conduct of Land Record staff.

32. Patwaris are required to reside within their circles and the number who fail to do so, either with or without permission, is very small. The subject of compelling Patwaris to live within their circles is still a matter which receives great attention, but it has been found impossible to relax the rule without sacrificing much of the local knowledge which it is essential for a Patwari to possess. In spite of difficulties the rule has been enforced successfully for many years. The number of punishments inflicted on Patwaris has somewhat increased: the reason is not so much a falling off in discipline or work as the extension of power to Superintendents and their assistants of inflicting small fines on their subordinates. The figures of punishments inflicted on Revenue Inspectors show little difference from last year: but it was found necessary to suspend one Superintendent and to reduce one Assistant Superintendent of Land Records.

WASTE LANDS.

5.—WASTE LANDS.

33. Mandla, Nimar, Balaghat, Seoni, Chanda and Betul are the principal districts of the Central Provinces in which waste lands are available for allotment on ryotwari tenure. In all these districts the area allotted substantially exceeded the area relinquished. The total area relinquished amounted to 33,115 acres; and 56,651 acres were allotted for cultivation. In Berar 40,000 acres in khalsa villages have been newly allotted.

GOVERNMENT ESTATES.

6.—GOVERNMENT ESTATES.

34. There are no Government estates in the Central Provinces or Berar.

7.—WARDS' ESTATES.

[Report on the management by Government of private estates for the year ending the 30th September 1905.]

The Central Provinces.

35. The policy of relinquishing from management of the Court of Wards those estates, in which from various causes the liquidation of debts within a reasonable time has become hopeless, has been continued, and there now remain but few estates in which there is any doubt of the ultimate repayment of the debt. The number under management by the Court of Wards has decreased from 99 to 95, while one estate is administered under the Guardians and Wards Act.

Income.

36. Owing to the changes that have taken place in the number of estates under management a comparison of the annual gross income and expenditure is impossible. The greater part of the income of the estates comes from rents collected from tenants, and of the total gross income of 11¾ lakhs, Rs. 7,21,000 were from rental payments. Of the total current demand 93 per cent was realized and this was obtained as a rule without difficulty.

The other main source of income is forest receipts, and greater success is now attained in the management of forests, which in these provinces are of great importance. The increase in the forest receipts of those estates which have been under management both this year and last has been considerable, amounting to Rs. 45,500. This result is due to the greater attention which is now paid to the management of forest estates all over the provinces, and the working of the forests is being rendered more effective by increasing the numbers and improving the pay of the forest staff.

Expenditure.

37. The total expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 8,70,357, which includes the land revenue and cesses. The cost of management varies considerably in different estates, but the percentage of cost of management on the gross income taken for the province as a whole still remains as low as 13 per cent. The charges are highest in those estates which have considerable forest areas and waste lands, but the expenditure thus incurred in developing the wards' property results in increased income.

Improvements.

38. Although most of the estates were indebted, it has been possible owing to the favourable character of the seasons to invest money in improvements of most estates. The amount expended in this way was almost double that of the previous year, the most considerable sums having been spent in the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions. In Chhattisgarh improvements in the estates have been chiefly confined to the construction and repair of roads and irrigation tanks.

Debt.

39. Progress has been made in nearly every indebted estate in the liquidation of the debts. Rs. 1,65,800 were devoted to this purpose out of current income and the total debt has been reduced by over two lakhs of rupees and stood at the close of the year at Rs. 9,33,991.

General.

40. Three of the wards, who were sent to the Nagpur Agricultural Class to receive instruction in home-farm cultivation, have completed their course. In several cases wards have been entrusted with the management, under proper supervision, of their estates, and in this way the wards not only gain valuable experience but maintain an interest in their property. There was but little litigation in connection with Court of Wards estates and there was a marked decline in the Nerbudda Division, where the number of suits used to be considerable.

Berar.

41. There are no Court of Wards estates in the Berar Division.

8.—REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

[Resolution on the Revenue administration of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th September 1905, and Report on the Revenue administration of Berar for the year 1904-05.]

General conditions.

42. Although the agricultural conditions were not everywhere equally favourable, the provinces as a whole enjoyed a year of prosperity. It was only in

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

some districts in the north and parts of the rice tract in the south that there was any failure of crops, and even in those parts nothing approaching to distress was experienced.

Tenants.

43. Rental collections were good, although they did not quite reach the high standard of the previous year. The area held in tenant-right has increased for all classes except that of absolute-occupancy, which shows a diminution. There has been a considerable increase in the number of transfers of property both by private sale and mortgage. These facts however do not indicate that the position of the agricultural classes is less stable than before, as in most cases the transfers were in favour of agriculturists. The prices obtained for the transfers, owing to the presence of many disturbing factors, do not admit of any deduction being drawn as to the state of the land-market, but there are indications of a marked rise in the value of land. Co-operative Credit Societies have been started in several districts, and the conciliation proceedings for the settlement of cultivators' debts were completed during the year. By these means a debt of 20 lakhs was adjusted in Betul, of which nearly 12 lakhs were remitted. In Bhandara similar success was obtained in securing the remission of nearly half of the debts, which amounted to 48 lakhs.

Landlords.

44. The landlords, as a body, shared in the general prosperity of the season. They collected the rent due to them with less recourse to the Courts, and paid the revenue demand practically in full. The tendency to transfer the area held by them as sir or home-farm as yet shows no decrease except in the Nerbudda Division, where these transfers have been decreasing steadily for the last three years.

Relations between landlords and tenants.

45. The relations between landlords and tenants have continued satisfactory. Litigation between landlord and tenant is generally concerned with arrears of rent, and complaints against landlords of levying amounts not legally due or of illegal distraint continue to be very rare. In Berar, where the tenure is ryotwari, the cultivators hold direct from Government and as a class were quiet and contented.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

1.—LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY.

46. The Legislative Authority for the Central Provinces and Berar is the Council of the Governor-General of India for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations.

2.—COURSE OF LEGISLATION.

COURSE OF LEGISLATION.

47. The only Act of the Imperial Legislature passed during the year 1905 specially affecting the Central Provinces was Act VII of 1905 which dealt with certain territory transferred from the Central Provinces to Bengal. Two laws were framed specially affecting Berar, namely the Berar Small Cause Courts Law and the Berar Courts Law.

3.—POLICE.

POLICE.

[Report on the Police administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1905 and also Table No. VII of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1905-06.]

Crime.

48. Owing to the transfer of the greater part of the Sambalpur District to Bengal and the absence of any separate statistics for the portion which remained in the Central Provinces any accurate comparison of figures is made impossible: similarly the reduction of the number of districts in Berar renders valueless any arguments based on the figures for the districts. Taking the Provinces as a whole, however, the total number of cognizable offences rose slightly, but that is accounted for by the fact that a partial failure of the spring crops in the northern districts resulted in some hardship to the poorer classes, and this was reflected in the increase of minor offences against property. In Berar, which enjoyed a year of prosperity, the increase is to be attributed to more accurate reporting. The total number of all crimes in the Central Provinces is the lowest on record.

Offences against the State.

49. Coining cases represent a minimum of the past eight years, and most of the cases were petty ones. The conviction of a gang in Raipur in the preceding year had a deterrent effect and there appears to be no systematic counterfeiting carried on in the Provinces. Rioting cases increased from 101 to 120, but, considering the increasing keenness of the demand for land, the number of agrarian riots may be regarded as satisfactorily few.

Offences against the person.

50. The total number of serious offences against the person has again risen and with them the number of murders has also increased. This increase is most noticeable in the Chhattisgarh Division which in the previous year had shown a marked decrease. The crime, however, is not one which the police can do much to prevent, except by bringing the murderer to justice after commission of the offence, in the hope that his punishment may act as a deterrent, and there is no reason to think that the increase is due to any special causes.

Offences against property.

51. In the number of dacoities reported, Berar still retains its unenviable pre-eminence, and the number of these cases rose in that province from 45 to 60. Apart from the greater wealth of Berar, the presence of large numbers of immigrants during the harvest season probably accounts to some extent for the prevalence of this crime. The dacoities, however, in both Provinces were, as a rule, not of a serious type, and in 11 districts of the Central Provinces not a single case occurred. There was a large increase in the number of robberies reported, but many of these were of a very petty nature, or were false cases manufactured to avenge a private grievance, and it seems to be an indisputable fact that the prevalence of plague leads directly to an increase in this class of offence, as, on the temporary evacuation of their houses by the people in order to avoid infection, their property is necessarily exposed to much greater risk.

Police action.

52. Judged by a numerical standard the results of police action have been somewhat disappointing, for the percentage of cases convicted to those investigated fell in the Central Provinces from 51 to 46 and in Berar from 31 to 27. The recovery of stolen property also showed a slight falling off in the Central Provinces, though the percentage was somewhat higher in Berar. The contrast between the percentages of success in the two Provinces is again marked, but on an examination of the returns of the districts which border on one another there is reason to believe that, given similar local conditions, the results in both are likely to be the same. The policy of abstaining from the investigation of petty cases was continued, but it would seem that the principle has been in some cases carried too far, a tendency which is to be deprecated as it would lead to a want of confidence in the police on the part of the public. On the other hand considerable ability was shown in the detection of murder cases, although the task was in some cases rendered unusually difficult owing to the villagers having co-operated in the concealment of the murderers. Effective action also was taken in the Nerbudda Division to prevent bands of dacoits crossing over into British territory, action which was rendered possible through the cordial co-operation of the police of Native States. The success of the police in their campaign against professional criminals was highly satisfactory, and a considerable measure of success was attained in cases of prosecution for bad livelihood, the result showing that generally a wise discretion was exercised in this class of cases. The population of the Provinces, however, is most peaceable in character, and it is against roving bands of outsiders that the people most need protection.

Rural and Punitive Police.

53. There are no rural police in the Central Provinces and Berar. Punitive police were employed in three villages situated respectively in the Narsinghpur, Saugor and Amraoti Districts, the force employed consisting of one head constable and four constables in the two latter cases, and of one head constable and two constables in the former village.

Establishment.

54. The full sanctioned strength of the Police force is 1,963 officers and 9,297 men, and though there is a deficiency of 59 officers and 251 men, the figures compare very favourably with those of the preceding year. There is again a decrease in the death-roll from 156 to 131 and the number of resignations is also fewer. Full effect has not yet been given to the reforms enunciated by the Police Commission, but the staff of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors was considerably strengthened and the pay of constables was raised. The Training School at Saugor also, on the quality of the outturn of which so much depends, made an excellent start.

Discipline.

55. The discipline of the force was generally good throughout the year and the punishment roll was not a heavy one. The returns, however, have been made out on a new basis for the first time and consequently no useful comparison with former years is possible. The policy of liberally rewarding good work was continued and more rewards were given than in the preceding year, but it is unsatisfactory to find that the number of dismissals among the lower ranks has considerably increased. Among them, too, the number of those who possess educational qualifications does not reach a high standard, and it would seem that further increases of pay will be necessary before men who can read and write will be induced to enlist.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE. 4.—CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

[Report on the Judicial administration (Criminal) of the Central Provinces for the year 1905 and Table IV of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1905-06.]

Crime.

56. The total number of cases reported and the total number returned as true were 42,277 and 34,374 as compared with 40,444 and 33,507 in the preceding year. Apart from variations in crime which are merely accidental and render comment needless, the fluctuation is mainly due to increased activity in prosecutions under Special or Local laws and to the larger number of petty offences

against the human body. The increase under this latter head is most probably to be explained, as before, by continued prosperity enabling the public to bring into Court small cases of assault and hurt which in less prosperous times would be settled out of Court or ignored.

Courts of original jurisdiction.

57. The strength of the Magistracy remained practically constant throughout the year, an increase of five bringing the total strength to 426. Of the whole number of persons whose cases were disposed of, three-fourths were dealt with by Stipendiary and the remainder by Honorary Magistrates, except in Berar, where there are at present but few Honorary Magistrates. Steps, however, have been taken to strengthen the Honorary Magistracy there and the recent introduction of the Central Provinces rules will make their work more systematic. The percentage of cases tried summarily by Magistrates exercising summary powers has decreased, largely owing to the small proportion of cases so tried in Berar, where Magistrates seem to have carried to an extreme the instructions which were issued in the preceding year directing that the greatest care should be exercised in selecting cases for trial by summary procedure. Of the total number of persons brought before Magistrates the percentage of convictions remains practically the same as in the previous year and calls for no comment.

The despatch of business.

58. There is a slight increase in the average duration of police cases, though the duration of complaint cases has fallen slightly. Yet Nagpur and Jubbulpore still manage to combine heavy files with short durations. While it is satisfactory to note a marked rise in the number of complaints rejected under Section 203 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the number of cases in which compensation was awarded to the accused under Section 250 shows little improvement.

Sessions Courts.

59. During the course of the year Berar was divided into two Sessions Divisions with a Sessions and an Additional Sessions Judge in each. This measure ought to result in a considerable improvement in the disposal of criminal work, and, as a natural complement of the reorganization, District Magistrates in Berar while still possessing the increased powers conferred under Section 30 of the Criminal Procedure Code have now practically ceased to exercise them. In the Central Provinces the average duration of sessions cases has fallen from 70 to 55 days. The duration is therefore still considerable, but better results cannot be expected so long as the area of the Sessions Division remains as large as it is.

Appellate and Revisional Jurisdiction.

60. The most noticeable feature of appellate work is the decline by 268 in the number of persons who appealed to the Sessions Court, while the rise of 57 in the number of those who appealed to the Judicial Commissioner may be accounted for by the conviction of several gangs of habitual thieves, all of whom filed appeals.

The percentage of cases in which the Lower Court's finding and sentence were confirmed has again fallen in all Courts, but the Berar percentage for 1904 was very low, so that this year's figures, though leaving room for improvement, are not as unsatisfactory as they appear.

Of the 5 appeals preferred by the Local Government against orders of acquittal three were successful and in one of them, a murder case, sentence of death was passed.

Punishment.

61. The death penalty was inflicted in 14 cases and there were 127 sentences of transportation passed during the year. Of the persons punished during the year almost 80 per cent received a sentence of fine only. This percentage tends to rise year by year, and is accompanied by a decline in the number of whippings and of sentences of imprisonment of 15 days or less, for Magistrates in most districts of the Central Provinces seem aware of the evil of short

sentences of imprisonment; but in Berar it would appear that the necessity for confining punishment of this kind to exceptional cases has still to be appreciated. The decline in the number of whippings is interesting in connection with the recent references by the Government of India to Local Governments and Administrations on the question of altering both the law and the practice in connection with this mode of punishment.

5.—PRISONS.

PRISONS. [Report on the Jails of the Central Provinces for the year 1905 and Table V of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1905-06.]

General. 62. The chief feature of the year has been the rise in the cost of maintenance and establishment. There was a large decrease both in the number of admission to jails and in the daily population, and this has made the upkeep of the smaller district jails more expensive. The question is now under consideration whether, as in the case of the Basim jail, some of these jails should not be reduced to the status of subsidiary jails.

Jail population. 63. There was a decrease of 692 in the total number of admissions during the year, and at the close only 3,441 prisoners remained under detention, as compared with 3,641, on the 31st December 1904. It is noteworthy that of those imprisoned during the year 13 per cent received sentences not exceeding one month, as compared with 16 per cent in each of the two preceding years and this accounts for the fall in the average daily strength of convicts.

The number of admissions of juvenile prisoners under 16 years of age was almost the same as in the preceding year. The Reformatory School at Jubbulpore makes very satisfactory provision for the reclamation of youthful offenders, and its advantages are now becoming well understood by the Courts, which are constantly instructed to exercise great discrimination in dealing with juvenile offenders. The greatest difficulty is in dealing with juvenile-adults who cannot under the rules be sent to the Reformatory, and who are more likely to be demoralised than reclaimed if subjected to the influences of jail life. It is hoped, however, that it may be possible eventually to arrange for the detention of offenders of this class in a separate prison, where reformatory methods will be followed, and from which the drawback of association with older criminals will be absent.

Though the number of prisoners with previous convictions admitted during the year again fell, the number is still high, especially in one jail, where it is attributed to the frequent changes of Superintendent. Arrangements have, however, now been made which will secure greater continuity of management. The treatment of the habitual offender forms the most difficult problem of jail administration, and special efforts are being made to enforce a stringent and deterrent discipline on offenders of this class. There were 8 escapes from jail during the year: but the absconding prisoners were all recaptured.

Jail discipline. 64. The number of offences committed by prisoners and of punishments inflicted on them shows a decrease, though the ratio of punishments to population is still high when compared with most other provinces. At Jubbulpore, however, where the prisoners used to give considerable trouble, the number of punishments awarded has greatly decreased, and the present state of discipline in the jail seems to justify the vigorous measures which have been adopted in recent years. The increase in the number of punishments inflicted at Nagpur is reported to be due to a revision of the scale of work. The results of this action, coupled with a judicious use of the mark system, were seen in the largely increased output of the Jail Press. At Akola, on the other hand, the number of punishments shows a very marked decrease without any sacrifice of discipline, and this is a very satisfactory feature, for formerly, when punishments in Berar jails were few, jail life was not made sufficiently deterrent.

Health. 65. The general health of prisoners throughout the year continued to be good, though a slight increase is recorded both in the number of deaths and in the ratio per mille of the daily average sick. The disappearance of dysentery

from the Jubbulpore Jail and the general good health of the prisoners in that jail are creditable, for before 1902 the sanitary condition of the jail was so seriously unsatisfactory as to necessitate the appointment in that year of a special committee to enquire into it. As a result of the measures subsequently adopted the health of the jail has steadily improved, and it was during the past year the healthiest of all the five Central Jails in the Provinces. Similarly great credit is due to the authorities of the Nagpur Jail for the success of their efforts to keep the jail free from plague in spite of a virulent outbreak of the epidemic in the city.

Jail industries.

66. The profits on the working of the jail factory departments have again risen, and there is a very remarkable increase in the average earnings of each prisoner from Rs. 19-14-0 to Rs. 47. This increase is due partly to accidental reasons and partly to the very high profits returned from Nagpur and Amraoti, where the main industry is printing for Government, and the profits are necessarily calculated at somewhat arbitrary rates. In the District Jails, on the other hand, on which nearly the whole reduction in population fell, there was a diminution in total cash earnings.

Cost of jail administration.

67. The average cost of maintaining and guarding each prisoner reached the high figure of Rs. 90. Establishment charges amounted to Rs. 47 per head, which is nearly double the average for the whole of India in 1904, but the whole question of the cost of jails in the Provinces is receiving close attention. The high incidence of the charges is probably to be explained by the maintenance of numerous jails with a very small population and this is one of the reasons for reducing the status of some of these prisons—a project which is under consideration.

6.—CIVIL JUSTICE.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

[Report on the Judicial administration (Civil) of the Central Provinces for the year 1905 and Table III of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for the year 1905-06.]

Character of litigation

68. The total number of suits instituted during the year shows a slight decrease on the figures of the preceding year, but while the value of suits rose in the Central Provinces by five lakhs of rupees, in Berar it fell by 1½ lakhs. In the Central Provinces there was an increase in the number of suits of higher value. Fluctuations in the number of suits instituted cannot be attributed to any definite cause, as the same explanation is often given of contradictory tendencies, and there seems to be little or no connection between the prosperity of the season and the number of suits that are brought before the Courts.

Pending suits.

69. The number of pending cases is very considerable, both in many districts of the Central Provinces and in Berar, but the number of those that have been pending a long time has been greatly reduced, and there is little cause for dissatisfaction in the Central Provinces, where District Judges have exercised a more careful supervision and judicial officers have been confined to judicial work to a greater extent than was formerly possible. In Berar the Courts were closed for a fortnight in the middle of the year while the new system was being introduced, and this accounts for the decline in disposals and the consequent increase of pending files. Now that the reorganization of the judicial system in Berar is complete, it is expected that work will be considerably accelerated.

Execution of decrees.

70. The number of applications for execution show a marked decrease on that of last year. The figures were practically stationary for the Central Provinces divisions, but there is a decline of nearly 3,000 in Berar. Of the total number of applications 7·9 per cent were disposed of by transfer, 56·9 per cent were wholly infructuous, while in 15·5 per cent satisfaction in part was obtained, and 19·7 per cent were returned as fully satisfied.

Appellate litigation.

71. The number of appeals in the Courts of Divisional and District Judges shows little variation from the preceding year. The appeals to the Judicial Commissioner from the Courts of the Central Provinces amounted in all to 736 against 614 in 1904 and indicate a constant tendency of civil litigation to

CIVIL JUSTICE.

increase. The number of disposed of appeals in the Court of the Judicial Commissioner, Central Provinces, increased from 534 in the previous year to 743. At the end of the year there were under 300 appeals pending in this Court for disposal from both the Central Provinces and Berar combined. Throughout the Provinces the duration of appellate cases both in the higher and lower Courts was reduced and there was a marked increase in the number of cases disposed of.

Miscellaneous.

72. Several changes of importance have been made during the year, especially affecting Berar. The Berar Courts Law came into force and the Court of Judicial Commissioner of the Central Provinces became the High Court for Berar and simultaneously the Provincial Services of the Central Provinces and Berar were amalgamated and divided into officers selected for Executive and Judicial work. Judicial officers being thus enabled to concentrate their attention on judicial work, a steady improvement in the quality of the work may be counted upon. Throughout the year also every effort has been made to recruit only law graduates for the Judicial line, but the greatest difficulty is experienced in getting properly qualified men to accept an initial salary of Rs. 100 a month, and a comprehensive scheme for improving the prospects of the service is now under consideration.

Much important work also was done in the latter half of the year in extending to Berar rules in force in the Central Provinces under various civil enactments, with the object of assimilating as far as possible Berar rules and procedure to those of the Central Provinces.

7.—REGISTRATION.

REGISTRATION.

[Note on the working of the Registration Department in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1905 and Table IX of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1905-06.]

Registrations affecting immoveable property.

73. The value of the property affected under the head of compulsory registration in the Central Provinces has risen by nearly 18 lakhs, or about 18 per cent. Part of this rise is only nominal, but the greater part represents a real increase. While the number of transactions was practically the same as in the previous year, their value has doubled, but the increase is to be accounted for by two or three exceptional transactions. The value of sales has decreased by $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, but that of mortgages has increased by 6 lakhs. In Berar the value of transactions has increased, sales increasing by 5 lakhs in spite of a marked fall in the number of transactions, and mortgages by 3 lakhs. While there is no marked tendency shown by the figures, there are indications that in the north of the province sales and mortgages increased to some extent owing to the damage done by frost to the rabi crops.

Optional registration of documents affecting immoveable property shows a decline both in the Central Provinces and Berar, but this is largely accounted for by the fact that in the previous year there were some exceptionally large transactions.

Registrations affecting moveable property.

74. There was a slight fall in the number of transactions affecting moveable property, and though the value increased the increase is again attributable to one or two transactions in the Wardha District of an exceptional character. In Berar the districts were broken up and rearranged and no effective comparison is possible.

Miscellaneous.

75. Refusals to register have again decreased to a marked degree both in the Central Provinces and in Berar: appeals show only a slight decrease but have been far less successful. The receipts have increased to a small extent, and although this has been accompanied by an increase in expenditure in the Central Provinces owing to improvements in the staff, most of the extra cost has been met by economies in other directions. The expenditure in Berar was stationary and in the course of the year, as a result of the rearrangement of the districts, the registration offices were also reorganized. The pressure of work attending on these changes rendered it necessary to postpone the consideration of such questions as the provision of better accommodation and the improvement of the staff, matters which are now receiving attention.

8.—MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION.

[Resolution on the working of the Municipal Committees of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1905-06 and Table XVII, 1, 2-L, 3-L and 4 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for the year 1905-06.]

Number and constitution of Municipalities.

76. There has been no change in the total number of Municipalities at the close of the year 1905-06 as compared with the previous year, *viz.*, 58. The number was reduced during the course of the year by one owing to the transfer of the Municipality at Sambalpur to Bengal, but this reduction was made up for by the establishment of a Municipality at Malkapur. There are 45 Municipal towns in the Central Provinces, and the Committees contain a certain proportion of elected members in all cases except in Khapa and Pachmarhi where the Committees consist exclusively of nominated members. There are 13 Municipalities in Berar, including the newly established Municipality at Malkapur and the right of election is at present exercised in 7 Municipalities. It has been proposed to extend the elective system gradually and in the case of Yeotmal orders were issued after the close of the year to introduce the change. In the year under report effect was given to the constitution of the three rising towns of Etawa, Itarsi and Katol as notified areas under the special provisions of the Central Provinces Municipal Act, which permit of the introduction of a modified form of Municipal government suitable for smaller towns.

Income.

77. The total real income of all the Municipalities, excluding loans and account heads, was Rs. 19,68,000 against Rs. 18,56,000 in the previous year. This increase was contributed by almost all the Municipalities in the Provinces, except Nagpur, where there was a decrease of Rs. 14,000. The fall in income of this Municipality was due to a decrease in receipts under the head "Octroi" and under "Water-rate" and "Conservancy tax" owing to the prevalence of plague and to the non-realization of arrears due by the persons who had left the town. The total Municipal receipts of the Province increased under almost every head except "Miscellaneous," under which there was a decrease of Rs. 12,000. The increase under "Octroi" was due to the revision of the Octroi Schedules and the increasing prosperity of the Provinces. Taxes other than octroi yielded an income of Rs. 5,45,000 against Rs. 5,10,000 in the previous year. There was no increase in the income from "Water-rates," but the receipts from "Conservancy tax" rose by Rs. 7,400, the increase being due to the changes in the system of assessment. The income realized from pounds increased by Rs. 5,700 which is attributed to organized effort to reduce the growing nuisance of stray cattle. Contribution from Government fell from Rs. 98,000 to Rs. 89,000 or by Rs. 9,000. The opening balance at the credit of all Municipalities was Rs. 7,29,096 and their total expenditure was Rs. 20,98,161, leaving a credit balance of Rs. 7,84,861 at the close of the year.

Expenditure.

78. The total expenditure of all the Municipalities increased by Rs. 68,000. As in the previous year, the charges of general administration and of tax collection show a slight increase. Expenditure on roads rose from Rs. 2,05,778 to Rs. 2,08,398, showing a slight increase of Rs. 2,620. The expenditure on account of education and veterinary dispensaries has risen as in the previous year, while the outlay on hospitals has decreased by Rs. 11,174. The expenditure on measures adopted for the prevention of plague rose by Rs. 3,000 as compared with that of the previous year, but was below the sum of Rs. 75,000 which was spent in 1903-04.

Financial position.

79. During the year the Burhanpur Municipality has completely liquidated its debt to Government, and at the close of the year there were only 10 Municipalities which had taken loans. Of these, two have borrowed from private sources and the remainder from Government. The Jubbulpore Municipality has been able to pay off the loan due to Raja Gokuldas entirely and has now only to pay Rs. 2,14,000 on account of the Government loan. In order to enable the Committee to carry out necessary improvements in its water-works, they have recently applied for a further loan of 4½ lakhs from Government. The Nagpur Municipal Committee has also applied for a loan of Rs. 1,50,000 to be devoted

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION.

to the removal of congested areas and to the improvements of markets, and the loan has been sanctioned. The financial condition of the Municipalities is generally satisfactory.

General.

80. The majority of the Municipal Committees continued to show a proper sense of their responsibilities and powers, and in many cases members gave up much of their time to the service of the community. The relations between Government officials and Committees continued to be excellent, and there has been an increasing desire on the part of Committees to act on suggestions made in connection with schemes of municipal improvement, especially with regard to the provision of water-works and good drainage.

DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS.

9.—DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS.

[Report on the working of the District Councils and Local Boards for 1905-06 and Table XVIII of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for the year 1905-06.]

Number and constitution.

81. Owing to the reduction of the number of districts in Berar from six to four, and to the transfer of Sambalpur to the Government of Bengal, the number of District Councils decreased from 23 to 20 and of Local Boards from 76 to 72. In the Chanda District the establishment of a new tahsil necessitated the addition of one Local Board, but this addition was counterbalanced by the amalgamation of the two Local Boards in the Balaghat Tahsil. Owing to these changes the number of meetings held shows an apparent decrease from 679 to 656, but, after making allowance for those Councils and Boards which no longer appear on the list, there is in reality an increase of fourteen in the number of meetings. Every District Council held at least four meetings, and though some Local Boards failed to meet so frequently as is desirable, the average attendance of the members slightly improved.

Income.

82. The total receipts of all the Boards, excluding account heads, amounted to Rs. 21,73,102 as compared with Rs. 19,05,020 in the previous year. The increase is chiefly due to larger contributions from Provincial Revenues for expenditure on the improvement of communications and on primary education. In this way the contributions to the Boards were augmented by Rs. 2,50,000 in the Central Provinces, and by Rs. 1,20,000 in Berar. In Berar, however, the actual increase was from Rs. 1,84,265 to Rs. 1,87,550, but this small increase of only Rs. 3,285 was due to the fact that the figures of the previous year included a special grant of Rs. 1,10,715 which was sanctioned for one year only, in order to compensate the Boards for the loss of income incurred by the abolition of the Town Fund Tax. Apart from the large increase in the contributions from Provincial Revenues, the variations in the receipts in the Central Provinces were unimportant. There was a decrease in the receipts from ferries and from cesses, the latter being due to remissions and suspensions in the northern districts and in Bilaspur. On the other hand, there was an increase of Rs. 3,199 in the receipts from pounds, which is ascribed partly to stricter supervision and partly to the diminution of fodder-supply consequent on the increase of cotton cultivation in certain districts and the consequent tendency of cultivators to impound cattle found straying in their fields. In Berar, though the Village Service Fund showed a decrease of Rs. 10,874, pound receipts rose considerably to the extent of over Rs. 20,000, and similar results were obtained from the Bazar cess, which is only collected by two Councils in the Central Provinces.

Expenditure.

83. Excluding account heads the total expenditure of all Boards was Rs. 19,85,447, the increase in the Central Provinces being Rs. 1,70,179 and in Berar Rs. 20,728. The increase, however, in expenditure was in neither case proportionate to the increased resources placed at the disposal of the Boards and the closing balances were materially larger. In the Central Provinces cattle-pound charges were again heavier owing not only to the rise in the price of fodder but also to changes in the management involving increased expenditure. The greatest difference was under Education, on which the total expenditure amounted to Rs. 5,12,187, or an increase of Rs. 95,962, the greater part of which was spent out of the special grant for primary schools. Under Civil Works there was also an increase in expenditure of Rs. 46,347, mainly on roads.

In Berar the chief increases in expenditure occurred under Sanitation, Civil Works and Education, but though the increase was not very considerable under any of these heads, expenditure on new buildings and repairs to roads rose by Rs. 37,837. The change in the constitution of the districts and the consequent dislocation of programmes militated against any very effective progress being made and the unspent balances in that division are still large.

84. The work of the Local Boards was generally satisfactory and in every district individual members devoted much of their time to public affairs. Though in some cases apathy is still displayed, the interest in local work is steadily increasing. Practical steps were taken to infuse more vitality into the work of Local Boards by placing definite funds at their disposal and entrusting them with wider powers of control. The result was shown by greater zeal in inspecting the works and institutions entrusted to their management and, while the Boards still require much official encouragement, they manifest greater readiness in adopting improvements suggested to them. **General.**

10.—MILITARY (VOLUNTEERING). MILITARY.

85. There are two Volunteer Corps in the Provinces, the Nagpur Rifles and Bengal-Nagpur Railway Rifles. **Number of Corps.**

86. The enrolled strength of the former corps was 696, of whom 22 were Commissioned Officers. Of this total figure 415 were extra-efficient, 44 efficient, and 33 non-efficient. The marksmen numbered 103 as against 153 last year. The financial position of the corps is satisfactory, the balance in hand at the close of the year being Rs. 670. A camp-of-exercise was held in January 1906 and 8 officers and 236 men attended the camp and general inspection. **The Nagpur Rifles.**

87. The Bengal-Nagpur Railway Rifle Corps is divided into two battalions, the first, which is under the administrative control of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, having its head-quarters at Kharagpur in Bengal and the second at Nagpur. The total enrolled strength of the second battalion on the 31st March 1906 was 1,218 including 13 Commissioned Officers. Only 21 men failed to qualify as efficients and extra-efficients, and the number of marksmen shows a considerable increase. The financial position of the corps is satisfactory. During January 1906 a camp-of-exercise was held for both the battalions at Adra and was attended by 21 officers and 332 men. **The Bengal-Nagpur Railway Rifles.**

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

1.—AGRICULTURE.

AGRICULTURE.

[Reports on the working of the Department of Agriculture and of the Civil Veterinary Department for the year ending the 31st March 1906: also Volume of Agricultural Statistics of India, Part I, for 1905-06.]

General.

88. The year was the first of the separate existence of the Agricultural Department, which was formerly combined with that of the Commissioner of Settlements and Land Records, but has now been placed under a separate Director of Agriculture. The staff during the year included one expert Agriculturist, one Agricultural Chemist and one Assistant Director, but when it is brought to its full strength there will be another expert Agriculturist and a Botanist in addition. The main work of the year was thus concerned with the organization and expansion of the department and enlarging the existing stations, and in establishing a new one. The greater part of the Imperial grant was expended in purchasing land, cattle and machinery and in erecting additional buildings on the stations.

Agricultural education.

89. No change was made in the work of the Agricultural School at Nagpur, but the school is to be raised to the status of a college and a three years' course with a more extensive curriculum will be introduced. When this reform has been effected, the progress which is somewhat disappointing will be more satisfactory, especially among the junior students who under present conditions are not attracted in sufficient numbers and scarcely come up to the standard that was expected of them. An important work of the school is the training of schoolmasters in agricultural subjects in order that they in their turn may stimulate the interest of their pupils in agriculture. These classes were attended by rather more than a hundred schoolmasters, nearly all of whom passed the prescribed examination. Seventeen students joined the class for young malguzars, and as one pupil spent a considerable sum in the purchase of implements and demonstrated their use in his village, it appears that the hopes entertained of the experiment will not be disappointed.

The circulation of the Agricultural Gazette has slightly increased with the publication of an English edition. Considerable efforts have been made to bring the publication to a high level and at the same time to make the information useful and practical without being too technical and scientific to be readily understood by the majority of the subscribers.

Agricultural experiments.

90. The experiments at the three farms at Hoshangabad, Raipur and Nagpur were continued on lines similar to those previously followed. At Hoshangabad the principal experiments were with rabi crops, particularly wheat, which is the most important crop in the Nerbudda valley. The results, however, of the experiments could not be accepted as reliable because the farm has not been established long enough for definite results to have been obtained. The farm at Raipur is maintained for the experimental cultivation of rice under conditions typical of the Chhattisgarh rice country. Important experiments in the growing of cotton were continued at the Nagpur farm when it was found that with one exception exotic varieties from Egypt and America were almost a complete failure, for they take much longer than indigenous varieties to mature and cannot be grown successfully without irrigation. The attempts, however, to improve the staple of the indigenous cotton by means of hybridization were pursued and now that some better varieties have been obtained, these will be sown over a larger area and tested further. The crop obtained from the tree cottons was small, though the plants grew very luxuriantly. Other experiments were also made with the object of discovering the relative value of locally obtainable manures in the growing of wheat.

91. The most important piece of work was the demonstration of the principle of cotton-seed selection by means of guaranteed seed farms. In order to carry out the scheme the department guaranteed the cultivators of four farms against loss if they cultivated in accordance with the directions given. The results were satisfactory, as in no case was compensation demanded, and it is now possible to judge of the value of selected seed. Efforts were also made by distributing seed to introduce a species of acclimatized American cotton in five districts of the two provinces. The results obtained, however, were indefinite owing to the small quantity of seed sown, for, while the cotton produced was of a superior quality, the outturn was not sufficient to command a higher price. Two demonstration farms with a view to demonstrating Nagpur methods of cultivating juar and cotton were working in Betul and Raipur: in the former district some success was obtained, but in the latter the local conditions do not favour the rapid adoption of new methods. The use of fodder-cutters was shown in 17 districts, but, though the machines have acquired a certain popularity, their sale is not as yet considerable. There are however signs that, owing to the rise in the wages of labour, agricultural machinery is likely to be much more widely used. Other demonstrations which achieved appreciable success were the pickling of juar-seed to prevent smut and the proof of the superiority of the Poona sugarcane mills over the method locally adopted. **Agricultural demonstration and enquiry.**

92. Agricultural associations were formed in the districts of Berar, and in the Central Provinces the associations already existing held regular meetings. These associations have been formed in the hope that the advantages of improved methods of cultivation might be widely disseminated through the agency of the people themselves. While at present they need much advice and assistance, their work will be much more effective when the staff of the Agricultural Department increases in size and knowledge, and is in a position to render them more assistance. **District Associations.**

93. A beginning was made in the establishment of Co-operative Credit Societies, of which eight were registered during the year. At present they are in the experimental stage in these Provinces and their system and organization as yet scarcely conform to the Raffeissen model: they are perhaps for the most part too large and work over too wide an area. They include also among their members men of the capitalist class, and, while there is no reason to suspect the motives with which such members have joined the societies, they undoubtedly look for a fair return on the capital they have invested. The real object, however, in creating the societies is to enable the members to obtain the capital they require on easier terms than they could obtain it singly, while all the members are fully responsible for the liabilities of the society, and take a share in the supervision of its transactions. The existing societies did useful work and, though their progress is necessarily slow, the experience gained from their working is valuable as indicating how far and in what form societies such as these are adapted to the circumstances of the people of these Provinces. **Co-operative Credit Societies.**

94. The inspecting staff of the Veterinary Department remained at the same strength as in the previous year, but six more Veterinary Assistants were appointed. Five new dispensaries were opened and the number of cases treated at dispensaries considerably increased. The greatest advantage to the agricultural classes from the services of the Veterinary Department lies in the inoculation of animals, and the increase in the number so treated is very satisfactory. The work of the department is rapidly increasing and with it a more rapid increase in the staff of Veterinary Assistants is necessary: the difficulty at present lies in finding suitable candidates for Veterinary Scholarships in sufficiently large numbers. **The Veterinary Department.**

2.—WEATHER AND CROPS.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

[Season and Crop Report of the Central Provinces for the year 1905-06, and Volume of Agricultural Statistics of India, Part I, 1905-06]

95. The average rainfall in the Central Provinces was 43·08 inches, a much better record than that of the preceding year, but even so five inches below the average of the last 38 years; the rainfall in Berar was within one inch of the normal. The monsoon did not arrive in full strength until the beginning of July, **Rainfall.**

although there were some earlier showers in the southern and eastern districts. The rain of July was followed by a long break in the first half of August, but later in the month a storm fortunately came which did much towards relieving the situation. Again, in the second week in September heavy and continuous rain fell over the whole of the Provinces and this was followed by showers up to the beginning of October. The distribution of the cold-weather rainfall was unusual: the January showers were generally deficient, while the rain that fell in the north and east of the Provinces during the first half of February was accompanied by hail which damaged the standing crops. The monsoon was thus late in commencing and closed unusually early, while the absence of rain towards the end of the year was unfavourable to the spring crops. The result was seen in the variations in the outturn in crops in different parts of the Province. The rice villages of Nagpur and parts of Raipur did well, while something less than a normal harvest was reaped in the intervening districts. Although the season opened favourably to cotton the crop was to some extent spoilt by excessive rain in the south of the Central Provinces and deficient rain in Berar.

Character of the season.

96. Chhattisgarh, which produces considerably more than half of the rice grown in the Provinces, suffered to some extent from the uneven nature of the rainfall and the crops varied from tract to tract. In the other districts, especially in the Wainganga Valley, a fairly normal harvest was reaped, for in those areas most of the rice is transplanted and the conditions were favourable. While juar did well in the northern districts, in Berar and Wardha this crop was short of the normal, the result being a considerable scarcity of grain and fodder. Berar again suffered in the lightness of the cotton crop to the cultivation of which most of the land of that division is devoted. The spring crops suffered from lack of moisture which was due to want of showers after the seed had been sown, but in the Nerbudda Valley and the plateau districts in spite of the scanty rainfall the wheat crop, which there is most important, showed an outturn above the normal.

Yield of the autumn (kharif) crops.

97. *Rice.*—The area under rice showed a small decrease of 25,000 acres, the area having diminished almost everywhere except in the Wainganga Valley. The decline was due to light rainfall and to a prophecy by the priests that the crop would be a failure which induced some cultivators not to sow this staple. Although the total area under rice has contracted, the area of transplanted rice has again increased in continuation of the tendency noticed last year, tenants being encouraged by preceding seasons to follow the more expensive method of cultivation. The outturn of the crop reaped, however, over the whole of the Province did not come up to more than 87 per cent of the normal.

Cotton.—The cultivation of cotton has made further progress both in the cotton districts of the Central Provinces and in Berar and any further extension in Nagpur and Wardha seems impossible in the future. The increase in area amounted to 270,000 acres, the total being a record area which produced cotton enough for an export of almost a million bales.

Til.—This crop is of no importance in Berar. In the Central Provinces there was again a fall in the area cultivated, except in Jubbulpore, where the early variety is of most importance. In the other divisions, where the later variety is more generally sown, the September rains prevented sowing in many places. Where, however, the crop was sown the outturn was good and averaged little short of the normal.

Juar.—In the Central Provinces juar, which is largely grown as a mixture with arhar, was sown over a much greater area than in the preceding year. This increase is due to the effect which the spread of cotton cultivation has had on the price of fodder. The dearness of fodder has encouraged the cultivation of juar in the Central Provinces, although in Berar there is a marked decrease in the area under this crop. The yield of the crop on the whole was 20 per cent below normal.

Kodo-kutki.—The smaller millets, kodo and kutki, gave a yield of 94 per cent.

The area sown with kharif crops in the Central Provinces shows a small increase of 47,000 acres: this occurs mainly under cotton and its mixtures, which is balanced by a decrease under rice and til. Similarly, in Berar, there has been a small increase of 85,000 acres arising from the substitution of cotton for spring crops.

Yield of the spring (rabi) crops.

98. The area under spring crops has decreased in the Central Provinces by 253,000 acres, or by more than the increase of the previous year. The decrease is especially noticeable in the Jubbulpore Division, where the damage caused by frost to the last year's spring crops gave rise to the expectation of a similar loss recurring. The decrease of 34,000 acres in Berar is to be attributed to the advance of cotton and is a continuation of the tendency which has long been observed.

Wheat.—The area under wheat and wheat-gram amounted to 3,282,000 acres, an increase of 33,000 acres. Wheat-gram is still giving way to pure wheat. The outturn was good, amounting to 94 per cent of the normal.

Linseed.—The area under linseed decreased by 24,000 acres in the Central Provinces and by 16,000 acres in Berar. This contraction in area is due to the poor harvest of the previous year and to the uncertain character of the crop. The yield was again only moderate.

3.—HORTICULTURE.

HORTICULTURE.

[Report on the management of the Provincial and District Gardens in the Central Provinces for the year 1905-06.]

Provincial gardens.

99. The provincial gardens include the Maharaj Bagh, Telinkheri and Government House gardens at Nagpur, and the Public and Residency gardens at Pachmarhi. The gardens at Nagpur suffered severely from want of water during the early part of the year and many of the mango trees planted in the previous year died. The acclimatised seeds gave a good show of flowers, but the early vegetables were much injured by caterpillars, and though a second sowing produced better results the area available is too small to produce a large crop. The season at Pachmarhi was favourable and there fruit, flowers and vegetables did well. The total receipts increased, and though there was also a rise in expenditure mainly owing to the scarcity of labour, financial results were satisfactory.

District gardens.

100. Besides those at Nagpur, gardens are maintained at all district head-quarters, except Jubbulpore, Chanda and Bilaspur. On the whole, the gardens had an unfavourable season as the rainfall was in some districts unevenly distributed and the hailstorms in February and March did a great deal of damage to fruit-trees. The best results were obtained at Mandla, Nimar and Saugor, where the percentage of receipts on expenditure was high, but though the receipts increased this was more than counterbalanced by a rise in expenditure. The gardens continue to supply fruit-trees to schools and malguzars, and flowering shrubs and forest-trees to schools.

Court of Wards Gardens.

101. Court of Wards gardens were maintained on several estates in the Hoshangabad, Wardha and Chanda Districts. The Wardha gardens were well managed and of the three in the Chanda District all were improved during the year and the receipts increased. The work of the Ahiri Estate gardens in that district was especially satisfactory and its popularity was manifested in a considerable increase in local subscriptions for its support.

4.—FORESTS.

FORESTS.

[Report on the Forest administration of the Northern, Southern and Berar Circles, Central Provinces, for the year ending 30th June 1906.]

Forest areas.

102. The total area of the State forests of the Central Provinces and Berar was reduced by 218 square miles and at the close of the year amounted to 22,525 square miles. The greater part of the decrease, or 193 square miles in all, was due to disforestment in two divisions of Berar in order to provide for extension of cultivation and to secure pasture-grounds for free-grazing. Further

changes with effect from the close of the year were made in the constitution of the three circles, by the transfer of the Betul Division from the Northern to the Berar Circle, and of the Nagpur-Wardha Division from the Berar to the Southern Circle Extensive alterations were also made in the Berar Circle where the Forest Divisions were reconstituted in order to make them conterminous with the newly constituted Civil Districts.

Demarcation and forest surveys.

103. Over 22,000 miles of existing boundaries were repaired at a cost of Rs. 12,059. This work was in progress in all the three circles, but the demarcation of new boundaries was practically confined to the Berar Circle, where a length of 207 miles was completed at a cost of Rs. 2,702 expended on the erection of substantial boundary pillars and the clearance of boundary lines. No survey operations were carried on in the Northern and Southern Circles where the publication of the maps is complete, but in the Berar Circle the Forest Survey of India continued their work in the Amraoti District by surveying 251 miles of boundary and completing 239 miles of plane-table traverses. No surveys, excepting petty surveys of plantations, were undertaken by the local Forest Department.

Working-plans.

104. With the exception of a working-plan embracing an area of 98 square miles in the Mandla Division no new working-plans were sanctioned during the year. The working-plan of the Saugor Division, occupying an area of 721 square miles, could not be completed owing to the recent reclassification of the forests. In the Southern Circle the preparation of working-plans for the Raigarh and Baihar forests was continued and, except for some revision of plans already sanctioned, only 354 square miles remain for which there is no working-plan. The prescriptions, however, of sanctioned working-plans are in abeyance over an area of 2,444 square miles, but it is expected that, if the present increase in the demand for forest produce is maintained, it will be possible to re-introduce working in accordance with the provisions of the plans. In the Berar Circle no new working-plans were under preparation, but some revision was carried out. In all three circles the sanctioned plans were adhered to and no deviation was found necessary, except in two instances in the Southern Circle.

Communications.

105. In the three circles of the Provinces 117 miles of new road were constructed at a cost of Rs. 19,085. Of this sum Rs. 5,092 were spent on the construction of the Ghat section of the Gabighat road in Bilaspur which is the most difficult portion of the road. Repairs were completed over 3,226 miles at a cost of Rs. 13,497, an increase of 400 miles on the figures of the previous year. The profits shown by the Allapilli Monorail for the year's working decreased considerably, as it was necessary to lay down the Tramway on a new line of about 4 miles in length and, the Tramway being closed for five months during the year, only 25,000 cubic feet of timber were extracted as against 127,000 cubic feet in 1904-05, at a cost of 2 annas 8·3 pies per cubic foot as compared with 1·1·3 pies in 1904-05.

Protection of forests.

106. The total number of forest offences decreased in the Northern and Southern Circles as compared with the average of the last three years, while in the Berar Circle it remained about the same. There was a satisfactory decrease in the offence of causing injury by fire. Compared with the previous year, however, there was an increase in the Northern Circle of cases of "unauthorized fellings" and "grazing without permission." The increase is attributed partly to a change in the grazing rates, but chiefly to the greater vigilance on the part of the Forest subordinates. The offences otherwise presented no peculiar features, except that in Berar many cases were discovered of encroachment on State forest.

Fire-protection.

107. In the Northern and Southern Circles the two classes of fire-protection, "systematic" and "normal," were maintained. The percentage of successful protection by the systematic method was not quite so high as in the previous year, but in both circles both the area attempted and the area in which success was obtained increased. In the Northern Circle, 2,189 square miles—an increase of 43 square miles—were under systematic protection and 1,080, as against 1,136 square miles, under partial protection. The operations were successful over all but 206 square miles. In the Southern Circle also the area under protection was increased

by 69 square miles, and though there were large fires in Chanda and Bilaspur protection was more successful than in the previous year. The average cost of protection per square mile rose slightly, but the results were satisfactory, for the season was not favourable for fire-protection owing to storms in February and March retarding burning operations and to the unusual heat in the later months of the year. The area under protection in Berar varied but little, amounting to 2,818 square miles, and except in one division few fires occurred.

Exploitation and management.

108. Selection fellings were made over part of the Banjar Valley Reserve in the Mandla Division, in the Allapilli forests of South Chanda and in Balaghat, but as usual the great bulk of the work of exploiting major forest produce was carried out as improvement or coppice fellings, an area of 42,076 acres being thus dealt with in the Northern and 42,032 in the Southern Circle, while in Berar the area was nearly the same as in the previous year. The extraction of minor produce was left for the most part to lessees and licensees. In the Southern Circle the system of granting leases for the periods of from 3 to 5 years for important produce such as *harra* and *lac* resulted in substantial increases to the revenue. In the Northern Circle the only departmental works of any importance were those undertaken in the Mandla Division for the supply of sâl timber to the Ordnance Department at the Jubbulpore Gun Carriage Factory as well as to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway authorities, 5,515 cubic feet of sâl logs being supplied to the former and 4,527 cubic feet to the latter. The orders, however, were not fully complied with. In the Southern Circle there were large decreases of 869,437 cubic feet of timber and 106,346 cubic feet of fuel extracted departmentally. The fall was due to the curtailment of the sleeper-cutting operations in Balaghat, as the work was mainly confined to the conversion of refuse into narrow-gauge sleepers and small-sized scantlings, and to the considerable advance made in selling coupes standing to contractors. The saw mills at Allapilli in South Chanda continued to work satisfactorily. Altogether 138,933 cubic feet were extracted departmentally in the Northern Circle and 455,989 in the Southern, while 74,147 cubic feet of fuel were extracted in the North and 140,221 in the South. In the Berar Circle only $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the estimated total outturn of major forest produce was removed by departmental agency. The total value of the year's sales to purchasers of major and minor produce amounted to Rs. 1,66,626 in the Northern Circle, Rs. 3,76,252 in the Southern and Rs. 9,78,950 in the Berar Circle. The value of timber and other produce removed from the forest by Government agency was Rs. 22,657 in the Northern Circle, Rs. 1,92,935 in the Southern Circle and Rs. 31,461 in Berar.

Financial results.

109. The net profits obtained from the Forests were Rs. 10,00,295 as against Rs. 6,56,067 in the previous year. This great increase resulted from the more profitable working of the Northern and Southern Circles, though the Berar Circle is still by far the most remunerative. There the gross receipts amounted to Rs. 10,45,081 and charge of management to Rs. 3,91,308. The Northern Circle this year, however, showed a profit of Rs. 2,20,078 on a gross revenue of Rs. 6,64,595. The profits also of the Southern Circle, which, in 1904-05, were only Rs. 65,674, were almost doubled and rose to Rs. 1,26,444. These financial results are highly satisfactory, particularly as a greater revenue was obtained with little or no increase of expenditure.

5.—MINES AND QUARRIES

MINES AND QUARRIES.

[Report on the working of the Indian Mines Act in the Central Provinces for the calendar year 1905; also Tables XXVI (Coal Mines) and XXVII (Mineral production) of the Volume of the Financial and Commercial Statistics for British India for 1905-06.]

Mines under the Indian Mines Act.

110. The number of coal mines increased from three to four owing to the opening of a new mine at Chandameta in the Chhindwara District. The Colliery at Warora was still the most important, its outturn being 123,015 tons of the Provincial total of 147,265 tons, which shows an increase on the previous year's working. The Warora Colliery on the grounds of safety and economy was closed after the end of the year and more attention will be paid to the Ballarpur mine, which is only just reaching the working stage, the output being only 148 tons. The coal industry is becoming increasingly important with the opening up of new railways in the Provinces, and the mine at Chandameta ought to be an exceedingly valuable property as more railways are constructed on the

MINES AND QUARRIES.

Satpura plateau. The fourth mine, that at Mohpani in the Narsinghpur District, was transferred to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company. The coal mines gave employment to 1,763 workers, of whom 219 were women, the underground miners numbering 1,048. No children were employed in these mines. A fatal accident occurred at the Chandameta Colliery during blasting operations. The occurrence was purely accidental.

Manganese mining.

111. The development of the manganese mining industry is still rapid and sustained and the chief obstacle to its progress is the scarcity of labour. The work is as a rule done by contract, and although the wages paid are generally good, in some districts labour is imported from Cutch and elsewhere. There are numerous shallow workings which do not rank as mines under the Mines Act, but which are still of much importance. The figures of the outturn from the mines are accordingly inaccurate as they do not include the output from these shallow workings. There are now, however, 17 mines the output of which shows a large increase of over 50,000 tons over the 85,000 tons extracted in 1904. The total value of the output was Rs. 3,54,148. The increased value is due to the rise of price caused by the disturbances in the Caucasus.

Miscellaneous.

112. There are 17 limestone quarries, and one from which Fuller's earth is extracted, in the Jubbulpore District, of which four were opened during the year. Their production was greatly increased, the outturn, valued at Rs. 68,578, being 92,340 tons as compared with 49,945 tons in the previous year. An iron-stone quarry also was opened in the Jubbulpore District, but the output was inconsiderable.

Commercial activity.

113. Twenty-seven prospecting licenses for minerals were granted during the year, and this figure, though slightly less than that of the previous year, shows that the commercial public still maintain its interest in the mineral resources of the Provinces.

MANUFACTURES.

6.—MANUFACTURES.

[Provincial Resolution on the working of the Factories Act in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1905, also Table XIX-2—5 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1905-06.]

Number of factories.

114. The total number of factories in the combined provinces increased from 155 to 201, the increase being entirely due to a rise from 57 to 105 in the number of factories registered under the Act in Berar. The great majority of the factories are cotton gins and presses, which may often be found even in remote villages.

Employees.

115. With an increase in the number of factories, a rise in the number of operatives employed was only to be expected, but, though only 95 more children were employed, the number of female operatives increased from 7,000 to 10,000. The question of restricting the hours of adult labour and dealing with the employment of children is under consideration.

Health.

116. The health of the operatives and the sanitary conditions of the factories, especially the larger ones, are generally good. The more important factories show a good example in this respect, while the smaller mills are generally situated in isolated and healthy localities where there is less danger of insanitary surroundings. The number of accidents which occurred during the year was 94 as against 71 in 1904. Two of these in the Central Provinces ended fatally, one of them being due to the machinery.

Wages.

117. Except in the Jubbulpore Gun Carriage Factory and the Spinning Mills of Akola the wages of unskilled labour remained about the same as last year. In the former factory the wages of an ordinary untrained labourer rose to Rs. 7-8-0 per mensem, while at Akola the wages of male and female labourers rose to 7 annas and 4 annas a day, respectively. In all the manufacturing districts the wages of unskilled labour have now risen much above the rates in force a few years ago, and agricultural labourers, as well as those employed in factories or on public works, command a much higher wage than formerly. The increased

demand for labour, with as its necessary consequence, the increased remuneration of the labourer, is a very striking feature in the economic history of the Province at the present time. The labourer is in a strong position and while the present condition of affairs lasts, it is unlikely that there will be any serious complaints of overwork or ill-treatment in the factories.

118. All factories with the exception of eight, five of which had been only recently started, were inspected during the year, and the inspections showed satisfactory results. There were eight convictions under Section 15 of the Factories Act, seven occurring in the Wardha District alone. **Supervision.**

7.—TRADE.

TRADE.

[Report on the rail-borne traffic of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31st March 1906; also Accounts of the trade carried by rail and river in India for the year 1905-06.]

119. The trade of the Province depends almost entirely upon the character of the harvest. The crops which influenced most materially the trade of the past year were the spring crops of 1904-05 and the autumn crops of 1905-06. The season was distinctly unfavourable to the spring crops; in Berar the rainfall was very light; in the Central Provinces the prospects of the wheat crop were everywhere excellent till February's severe frost in the important wheat-growing districts of the Nerbudda Valley and on the Vindhyans caused considerable damage. In spite, however, of these losses the Provinces were able to respond to the active demand caused by the crop failure in Northern India and increased their export of wheat by 34 per cent and their export of gram by 69 per cent. The monsoon of 1905 was also distinctly unfavourable to the kharif crops. It commenced late, was light except in the second week of September and withdrew early at the close of September. There was a material decrease upon the previous year's area under rice and the harvest was not good, with the result that the figures of the export trade show a decrease for this staple of 35 per cent for the whole Province. In spite of the juar harvest suffering from insufficient rain, the dearness of grain in Bombay and the United Provinces caused an enormous increase in its exports. The cotton crop was not so good as in the previous year, but the increase in area under the crop resulted in the exports exceeding all previous records. **Character of the Crops.**

120. The prices of food-grains were higher than those of the previous year, as a consequence of the large exports to those parts of India which were suffering from famine. During the year 1903-04 American speculation raised the price of cotton to an exceedingly high level (Rs. 23 per maund), but a fall followed and the price dropped to Rs. 15-4-0 per maund, but has since risen steadily. **Prices.**

121. The total volume of trade was greater by $8\frac{1}{2}$ million maunds than in the previous year and its total value increased by 5 crores of rupees. The largest increase in exports occurred under the head of raw cotton, fodder, grain and metals. The principal metal exported from the Provinces is manganese. The bulk of imports increased by $1\frac{1}{4}$ million maunds (9 per cent) and exports by 7 million maunds (26 per cent) and the balance of trade in favour of the Province as a whole was more than 10 crores. **Total traffic of the year.**

122. The total weight of the import trade shows an increase of 9 per cent on the figures of the previous year. There is a large decrease in imports of railway plant and rolling-stock. The increase in coke and coal (1,333,000 maunds) is due to the increased use of fuel on the extended railway system and to the increased demand for cotton gins and presses. The imports of grain and pulse again fell, while the exports largely increased with the famines in other parts of the country. Sugar, spices, kerosine oil and European piece-goods again showed an increased import, especially in Nimar and Berar. The reduction of the duty in salt to Rs. 1-8-0 per maund was followed by an increased import of 20,000 maunds over the record figures of 1904-05. The increased export of grain again brought with it an increased import of gunny-bags. **Imports.**

TRADE.

Exports.

123. Both the total weight and the total value of the exports increased by 26 per cent. The marked increases in the exports of agricultural produce account chiefly for the brisk export trade, which has caused prices to rise considerably over the Provinces as a whole. Exports of raw cotton again reached a record figure, an advance of 21 per cent on the figure of the previous year. The new trade in hay and fodder, which was noticed last year, continued to expand rapidly, the exports being nearly 3½ times larger than in 1904-05, but part of the increase was due to the scarcity of fodder in Northern India. There was a remarkable increase in the export of juar from 200,000 to 1,395,000 maunds, due partly to the famine in other parts of India and partly to a tendency to encourage its growth in the cotton districts on account of the dearness of fodder. In spite of an unfavourable season the exports of wheat rose by 3,800,000 maunds (34 per cent). The exports of hemp fell by 12 per cent and the decline is said to be due to the careless or fraudulent practice of bringing the hemp to market with a large admixture of dirt and sand. The increase of nearly 3 million maunds in the export of metals against the decrease of 5 million maunds in 1904-05 is due principally to the developed trade in manganese ore. The temporary closure of the manganese industry in the Caucasus led to a largely increased demand for Indian manganese. The increase in the amount of unwrought timber despatched to other parts of India continued.

PUBLIC WORKS.

8—PUBLIC WORKS.

[Finance Accounts of the Buildings and Roads Branch of the Public Works Department, Central Provinces, for 1905-06; also Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India for 1905-06.]

IMPERIAL WORKS.

Public Works.

124. No Imperial works of any special importance were undertaken during the year. A sum of Rs. 5,000 was handed over to the Bengal-Nagpur Railway authorities for construction of quarters for the Sergeant-Instructor, Bengal-Nagpur Railway Volunteer Rifle Corps, at Bilaspur. The post office opposite the railway station, Raipur, started in 1904-05, was completed at a cost of Rs. 2,500. The construction of a new post office at Dhamtari and the remodelling of the old post office at Drug were also taken in hand.

The dynamo-house at the Telegraph Office, Nagpur, commenced last year, was completed and a residence for the Deputy Postmaster-General was commenced. The total expenditure on these two buildings was Rs. 10,518. The Post and Telegraph offices at Mehkar and Garchiroli were constructed at a cost of Rs. 1,869 and Rs. 2,876, respectively.

More than Rs. 73,000 were spent on sinking two pits at the Ballarpur Colliery, and a road connecting the Colliery with the Chanda-Allapilli road was commenced.

PROVINCIAL WORKS.

125. The total expenditure on Provincial works of all kinds amounted to Rs. 33,60,990, of which Rs. 16,19,371 were spent on original works and the remainder on repairs and establishment. The following were the principal objects of expenditure.

Forest Buildings.

126. The Forest Office at Mandla was completed at a cost of Rs. 8,600 and an office for the Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle, was also constructed at Nagpur during the year at a cost of Rs. 15,036. Residences for the two Forest Divisional Officers (North and South) were started at Chanda, the expenditure incurred being Rs. 5,026 The conversion of the Settlement Record-room at Bilaspur into a Forest Office was also practically completed.

Administration, treasury and currency buildings.

127. Two extensions were made to the Comptroller's Office at Nagpur. The first was commenced in 1903 and completed at a cost of Rs. 3,822, the second, which was began in April 1905, is nearing completion.

128. The construction of the new tahsili buildings at Baloda Bazar, Mahasamund, Jubbulpore and Betul were completed, and those at Bemetara, Balod and Sehora were well advanced, the total outlay on these buildings during the year being Rs. 60,000. The tahsili buildings at Garchiroli in the Chanda District, and a new tahsili at Balaghat, were also completed at a cost of Rs. 2,539 and Rs. 7,270, respectively. The tahsili at Warora and the extension of the Chhindwara tahsili were commenced, the expenditure on the former during the year being Rs. 8,885. Quarters were constructed for tahsili officials at Baloda Bazar, Mahasamund, Bemetara, Balod, Sehora and Banda. Those at Sakoli and Baihar were put in hand and a sum of Rs. 5,526 was expended. Certain additions to the tahsili at Dhamtari were also carried out. At Bilaspur and Mandla residences were provided for the Settlement Officers. The work of re-roofing the tahsili at Pandhakheora, Yeotmal District, was also completed at a cost of Rs. 12,882. The Veterinary dispensaries at Damoh and Chanda were completed and new Veterinary dispensaries at Seoni and Pachmarhi were put in hand, the former being practically completed. Construction of Excise bonded warehouses was started at Khurai, Rehli, Damoh, Hatta, Sohagpur, Burhanpur, Harsud and Seoni-Malwa. **Revenue buildings.**

129. A number of improvements were carried out in the existing Secretariat at Nagpur, the most important being the extension to the Press which is still in progress; the expenditure incurred was Rs. 4,380. The construction of the new Secretariat building, which was commenced in April 1904, is still in progress. Foundations have been completed. The total expenditure incurred up to 31st March 1906 was Rs. 60,041. Certain improvements to the Residency at Pachmarhi were carried out at a cost of Rs. 6,800. **Secretariat offices and residencies.**

130. The Female Normal School at Jubbulpore was completed and certain additions are still in progress. The Boarding House for the High School at Saugor and the Girls' School at Damoh were also completed at a cost of Rs. 13,000 and Rs. 4,500, respectively. A Mansfield gas producer and gas holder were erected for the laboratory in the Victoria Technical Institute at Nagpur at a cost of Rs. 5,630. About Rs. 29,187 were expended on hostels for students at various schools in Berar. A hostel was also added to the school at Gadarwara. Anglo-Vernacular schools at Malkapur and Akola were completed during the year at a total cost of Rs. 20,060. Additional buildings for Anglo-Vernacular schools at Kharinja, Murtizapur and Daryapur were completed during the year at an outlay of Rs. 5,493. **Educational.**

131. A Circuit-house was constructed at Balaghat at a cost of Rs. 11,904. **Circuit-houses.**

132. Considerable progress was made with the construction of the District Court-house at Drug in spite of the scarcity of labour and the failure of contractors, the expenditure during the year being upwards of Rs. 82,000. In addition to this about Rs. 15,000 were spent on record-racks and certain subsidiary buildings, such as the Bar-room, Witness shed, Tent godown, Malkhana, &c The new Civil Courts at Damoh and Hoshangabad were taken in hand and fair progress made. Materials were collected for the Civil Courts at Bilaspur and the new District Court, Nagpur, the foundation of the latter building being completed and plinth work commenced. Certain additions and alterations to the Deputy Commissioner's office, Nagpur, were completed at a cost of Rs. 2,315. The new Court-house at Chanda was finally completed, the expenditure during the year being Rs. 17,551. Additions and alterations to the building at Akola, which are to be converted into Law Courts, were completed with the exception of the record-racks, the expenditure at the close of the year being Rs. 7,998. **High Court and District Courts.**

133. In the Hoshangabad Jail re-construction of the circumvallation wall and the new quarters for the Jailer, Assistant Jailer, and Hospital Assistant were completed. A new lock-up was in course of construction at Drug, and a grain godown and a well were added to the Chhindwara jail. Materials were collected for re-roofing certain barracks in the Raipur jail. Various improvements were effected in jails at Nagpur, Chanda, Buldana, Akola, Balaghat and Bhandara. The improvements to the Amraoti Central Jail were also continued and the expenditure at the close of the year was Rs. 12,686. **Jails.**

Police buildings.

134. The reconstruction of the Kotwali in the City, Nagpur, was still in progress and the total expenditure was Rs. 8,212. The construction of Police Station-houses and Lines at Mahasamund, Bemetara, Baloda Bazar and Garchiroli was pushed on, and almost completed. In the Police Lines at Warora three-fourths of the work was done, the expenditure being Rs. 4,880. The Police Lines and Sub-Inspector's quarters at Armori and Sironcha were also completed during the year under report, the cost of the former being Rs. 27,522; and the expenditure on the latter during the year was Rs. 3,996. The new Head-quarters Police Buildings at Drug were well advanced, the total expenditure being Rs. 27,000. The Police quarters at Bilaspur, Garha and Harda were completed. Among the new works which are still in progress are a Police office at Mandla, a first class Police Station-house at Sohagpur, a second class Police Station-house at Bhainsdehi, quarters for the City Superintendent at Jubbulpore, the new lines for the Reserve Police at Amraoti and the quarters for Head-quarters Inspectors at Akola and Buldana, the outlay on the last three being Rs. 32,789, Rs. 5,075 and Rs. 5,253, respectively. The construction of lines and quarters for Circle and Sub-Inspectors at Chanda was commenced and practically completed; the expenditure being Rs. 3,996.

Hospitals, dispensaries and Asylums.

135. The new hospital at Pachmarhi and quarters for Nurses at Pachmarhi and Nagpur were completed during the year, but the work in the extension of the Lunatic Asylum at Nagpur is still unfinished. The first class dispensaries at Bemetara, Mahasamund and Balod were practically completed and a new dispensary was constructed at Chappara, an operation-room at Raipur was in course of construction, and extensive additions to the dispensary at Drug were undertaken in order to bring it up to the status of a Main Dispensary. A Branch Dispensary at Garchiroli and a first class mortuary at Buldana were also completed at a cost of Rs. 4,238 and Rs. 1,162, respectively. Improvements were also effected in respect of the hospitals at Akola and Buldana.

Miscellaneous Public Works buildings.

136. The construction of sheds for keeping famine stores at Buldana, Basim and Khamgaon were finally completed at a total cost of Rs. 4,266. Certain additions and alterations to the Executive Engineer's offices at Hoshangabad and Akola were carried out, the cost of the latter being Rs. 2,770. New quarters were provided for the Sub-Divisional Officer at Drug, and for Public Works Subordinates at Baihar. A sum of Rs. 16,000 was devoted to the extension of Farm Buildings at Labandih (Raipur) and Powarkhera (Hoshangabad). Rapid progress was made in the construction of residences for officers. Additions and alterations to the Executive Engineer's bungalow at Nagpur were completed, the cost being Rs. 6,685. Two Extra-Assistant Commissioners have been provided with quarters at Wardha and a third set was put in hand; expenditure during the year being Rs. 9,143. Bungalows for the following officers were also completed during the year, *viz.*, the District Superintendent of Police, Yeotmal, Deputy Commissioners at Jubbulpore, Betul and Hoshangabad, the Assistant Commissioner, Khandwa, and the Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner and District Superintendent of Police at Drug; three Extra-Assistant Commissioners at Narsinghpur, the Superintending Engineer, II Circle, the Examiner, Public Works Accounts, and the Assistant Comptroller, Central Provinces, at Nagpur. Those for four Extra-Assistant Commissioners at Drug are in progress.

A block of quarters with out-houses for six European and Eurasian clerks at Nagpur was commenced in March 1906, the expenditure amounting to Rs. 1,909. Five bungalows were purchased in the Civil Station of Nagpur with a view to provide suitable residences for Government officers. The total expenditure on residences at Nagpur including acquisition of bungalows amounted to Rs. 68,599. At Balaghat materials for remodelling the Deputy Commissioner's Bungalow, and constructing District Superintendent's Bungalow, were collected. The construction of bungalows for the Civil Surgeons of Bhandara, Drug and Chhindwara, and an office and a bungalow for the Executive Engineer, Jubbulpore Division, were put in hand and good progress made. Materials were collected for the Experimental Farm at Akola at an expenditure of Rs. 12,126.

137. The total outlay on Original works—Communications amounted during the year to Rs. 4,58,680, while Rs. 7,41,058, were expended in repairs. The formation of the new Drug District necessitated the completion and raising in class of roads to connect the new tahsils with each other, and with the District Head-quarters as well as with important centres of trade. Important lines of through communication between contiguous districts of the Central Provinces and Berar were begun and special efforts made towards completing important roads left unfinished after the famine of 1900 in view of the pending revision of the District Road Schemes. The Nandghat-Mungeli and Kota-Lormi roads were brought to completion, the total outlay on each being approximately half a lakh. The Arang-Khariar Road was practically completed and some advance was made with the construction of the second and third sections of the Rajnandgaon-Antagarh Road. Among new roads undertaken during the year were the Dhamtari-Muramgaon (Balod to Chanda border), the Bhatapara-Chandkhuri Roads and the Lormi-Pandaria extension of the Kota-Lormi Road. The last two roads were intended to provide employment in a tract of the Bilaspur District where the likelihood of distress was apprehended. In the Jubbulpore Division attention was almost exclusively devoted to roads already in progress. The Patan-Tendukhera, the Sehora-Majholi-Katah, and the Panagarh-Singaldip roads approached completion; the total expenditure incurred to end of the year being Rs. 56,100. Four miles of the Mandla-Ghugri Road were completed at a cost of Rs. 17,000 and improvements were carried out on the Dindori-Birsinghpur Road in order to put it in fair order throughout, the total outlay from commencement on this difficult work being close upon $1\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs. Short Railway Feeder roads were begun at Khaira Maira, Bhuma and Kaniwara on the Nainpur-Seoni section of the Satpura Railway. The Badnur-Ellichpur and Burhanpur-Dhertalai roads will, on completion, afford easy communication between the Betul and Nimar Districts of the Central Provinces and the adjoining districts of Berar; the expenditure incurred during the year on the former being Rs. 37,000 and on the latter upwards of Rs. 20,000. A commencement was made with the improvement of the steeper gradients on the Piparia-Pachmarhi Road. The completion of the Narsinghpur-Chhindwara Road was proceeded with, and materials were collected for the re-construction of the Piparpani Bridge. The first section of the Chanda-Allapilli Road was completed and work on the other sections was pushed on during the year, the total expenditure on the whole road during the year being Rs. 16,513. The jungle on the Allapilli-Muramgaon Road has been cleared and the construction of Inspection Bungalows is in progress. The total expenditure on this road during the year was Rs. 8,212. Earthwork and Inspection Bungalows are also in progress on the Muramgaon-Dhamtari Road, the expenditure being Rs. 3,304. A first class road from Ambajhari to Anjni Jail was commenced in December 1905 and is still in progress, the expenditure being Rs. 1,400. Two iron girder bridges of 10 feet span were constructed on the Great Eastern Road costing Rs. 5,864. In the Bhandara Division the Chikla Mine Road and the Tirora Khairlanji Road were completed at a cost of Rs. 3,120 and Rs. 18,504 respectively: and the second and third sections of the Balaghat-Baihar Road were also completed. Improvements were made to the ghat section of the Seoni-Katangi Road: the expenditure during the year being Rs. 1,982.

The work of constructing roads from Powni to Lakhandur, Kirnapur to Lanji, Amgaon to Lanji, Baihar to Topla and the Lamtha Railway Feeder Road, was in progress, the total expenditure on these during the year being Rs. 25,014. The raising in class of Lamtha-Baihar Road was in progress, expenditure during the year being Rs. 27,130. Work was also in progress in connection with the construction of a road through the Bijagarh tract in the Balaghat District. The expenditure during the year was Rs. 2,508.

In addition to the foregoing works a considerable number of minor works were carried out, including new causeways at difficult nalla crossings, the provision of new and improvements to existing Dâk and Inspection Bungalows, where most urgently needed.

138. Works on the District Council roads in the Chanda Division, *viz.*, Garchiroli-Chamursi, Mul-Chamursi, Mendki-Talodhi and Garchiroli-Gewardha, were put in hand and the total expenditure on them amounted to Rs. 9,737. A

Incorporated local funds.

new public garden was also started at Chanda, the work comprising a well and footpaths, the expenditure being Rs. 2,756 during the year. Improvements by re-alignment and trenching to the Ellichpur-Anjangaon and Anjangaon-Daryapur roads were in progress, and a sum of Rs. 36,820 was spent during the year.

A number of major and minor works, pertaining to schools, dispensaries, causeways, bazar-chabutras and wells were carried out, the total outlay, including establishment charges, amounting to Rs. 24,303 during the year.

Contributions.

139. The important works in hand were the construction of drains in the towns of Akola and Basim. Materials were collected in 1904-05. The total outlay on these works was Rs. 7,540 at the close of the year. Materials for the construction of the Victoria Technical Institute at Amraoti were collected at a cost of Rs. 8,500. A new Dispensary for Chanda with out-offices and a well was practically completed during the year, at an expenditure of Rs. 8,576. The distribution system of the Seoni Water-works was nearly completed. The enlargement of the catchment area of the Reservoir at Babaria (Seoni) was also begun, as the first step towards minimising the chances of failure of water-supply at Seoni.

Railways.

140. There were no Railways under construction, but the sum of Rs. 10,764 was spent up to the end of the year on demarcating the land acquired for the Khandwa-Akola-Basim Railway.

IRRIGATION.

9.—IRRIGATION.

[Season and Crop Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for 1905-06, and the Administration Report of the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department for 1905-06.]

Area under irrigation.

141. The area irrigated in 1904-05, when the meteorological conditions were such as to demonstrate the value of irrigation, was nearly double that of the preceding year. The area now irrigated is still large, amounting to 611,783 acres in the Central Provinces and Berar, but it shows a decrease of 20,000 acres. In the rice tracts of Seoni and in Bilaspur and Chanda the tanks were short of water and irrigation was impossible: in other rice districts the later monsoon was sufficient and irrigation unnecessary. In the districts, however, of Bhandara, Nagpur and Balaghat, where the tanks filled well and new irrigation works were made, the area under irrigation substantially increased.

State Irrigation.

142. State irrigation in these provinces is still in an early experimental stage. Works were pushed on and many reached a stage in which some irrigation from them was possible. The total expenditure on major and minor works was Rs. 13,44,541. Several tanks filled, but irrigation from them was restricted, owing to the distributaries being incomplete. The total area irrigated from purely State works was 12,819 acres. The value, direct and indirect, of the irrigation done during the year was estimated at Rs. 15,927. The investigation of projects was continued and the completion of several was well advanced. In some parts of the Saugor District the rainfall was considerably short of the normal, but the field embankments gave very fair yields and indicated their protective value. Further work on improved lines was done in the gauging of rivers for irrigation schemes, and in 23 of them the discharges were recorded.

Major works.

143. The expenditure incurred on the 16 major works, which were under construction, was Rs. 9,71,762. The Khyrbandha tank in the Bhandara District and the Marowda, Kukurdehi, Pindraon, Bainakheri Khurd and Hargahan tanks in Raipur were practically finished. The Khapri Aranda tank dam was almost completed and some work done on the distributaries. Work was continued on the Chandpur and Asola Mendha tanks and begun on the Rumal, Ghorajheri and Khairee tanks. There were 34 major irrigation schemes under investigation.

Minor works.

144. The total expenditure on minor irrigation works, including contributions, was Rs. 3,72,779. There were in progress 45 purely State minor tanks in ryotwari and malguzari villages, 56 grant-in-aid tanks and 42 field embankments, a number of which were practically finished.

Special famine surveys.

145. The total expenditure on special famine surveys, carried out by the Public Works Department separately from the Irrigation Branch, amounted to Rs. 2,28,117. Of this sum Rs. 2,04,924 were spent in surveys in the specially constituted famine survey divisions, where over eight hundred projects were surveyed and examined. The rest of the expenditure was incurred on road surveys, and included the cost of establishment and the purchase of tools and plant.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

PART I.—CENTRAL PROVINCES.

[Further details and statistics will be found in the Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India for the year 1905-06.]

GROSS REVENUE.

146. The following statement compares the receipts, expenditure and closing balance under the various heads of account for the years 1904-05 and 1905-06 :— **Gross Revenue.**

Heads.	Receipts.		Expenditure.		Closing Balance.	
	1904-05.	1905-06.	1904-05.	1905-06.	1904-05.	1905-06.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imperial Revenues ...	54,18,549	19,72,908	11,12,449	11,44,758	....	.....
Provincial Revenues ...	1,16,52,534	1,60,41,506	1,23,53,534	1,28,06,506	8,00,000	40,35,000
Local Funds—						
Incorporated ...	18,78,403	21,42,837	18,39,538	21,04,792	3,46,101	3,84,146
Excluded ...	5,35,458	5,12,751	5,22,147	4,93,845	1,67,296	1,86,202
Municipal Revenues ...	14,76,859	15,36,325	14,55,163	14,71,037	3,65,531	4,30,820
Total ...	2,09,61,803	2,22,06,327	1,72,82,831	1,80,20,938	16,78,928	50,36,168

(*a*) IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE.

147. IMPERIAL REVENUE.—The actuals of the two years 1904-05 and 1905-06 are shown below, the striking differences between major heads being explained in detail :— **Imperial Revenue.**

Revenue and Receipts.	Actuals.		Expenditure.	Actuals.	
	1904-05.	1905-06.		1904-05.	1905-06.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Land Revenue. { Proper ...	43,64,778	42,93,468			
Land Revenue. { Adjustment.	—33,19,710	—74,18,034			
Opium ...	2,88,409	3,04,521	Assignments and Compensations.	47,176	54,244
Stamps ...	3,86,405	4,07,944	Excise ...	40,539	72,899
Excise ...	23,81,887	28,79,933	General Administration ...	1,00,770	1,16,014
Forest ...	6,76,409	8,66,265	Ecclesiastical ...	70,990	64,006
Tributes ..	2,44,550	2,31,037	Other heads ...	8,52,974	8,38,195
Other heads ...	3,95,821	4,07,774			
Total ...	54,18,549	19,72,908	Total ...	11,12,449	11,44,758

148. LAND REVENUE—*Imperial share one-half.*—The special assignment of 10·61, and the initial contribution 30·00 to Provincial to start the new Settlement, accounted for the large increase in adjustment.

149. CANAL REVENUE.—There is no canal revenue in this province.

SOURCES OF IMPERIAL REVENUE OTHER THAN LAND.

150. OPIUM—*Imperial.*—Larger sales accounted for the increase.

151. EXCISE—*Imperial share three-quarters.*—The introduction of the contract supply system into Berar and six districts of the Central Provinces, consequent on the recommendations made by the Central Provinces Excise Committee of 1904, has been followed by a large increase in revenue. Part of this increase was no doubt due to other causes, among them being the prosperous agricultural conditions, the prevalence of high wages and improved administration ; but the predominating cause was the change of system whereby local distillers were displaced from their business and were forced to take up the work of retail vend. The competition in the retail vend market was enormously increased and led to what may have been in some cases reckless and speculative bidding. It is possible therefore that the present Excise revenue stands at a fictitious figure.

Imperial Revenue.

152. SALT—*Imperial.*—There is no revenue in these provinces under this head. The receipts on account of Northern India and Baragora salts are passed on to the Government of India and of Bombay, respectively.

153. STAMPS—*Imperial share one-quarter.*—The increase was chiefly under "*Commercial and other Stamps.*"

154. FORESTS—*Imperial share one-half.*—The increase was due to better demand for timber and fodder grass in almost all the Divisions owing to the general prosperity of the country. The introduction of the new grazing rules in some of the Divisions partially helped the increase.

155. TRIBUTES—*Imperial.*—The transfer of the Sambalpur District to the Government of Bengal chiefly accounted for the fall under this head.

156. On the expenditure side the increase under "*Assignments and Compensations*" was due to the payment of Excise compensation to the Pagara Estate in the Ghhindwara District for the resumption of its rights; under "*Excise*" it was due to the re-organization of the Department on the introduction of the Madras system of Excise; and under "*General Administration*" it was due to increased rate of salaries drawn by gazetted officers and to the revision of the office establishment of the Comptroller, Central Provinces. The decrease under "*Ecclesiastical*" was due to the appointment of an additional Chaplain at Raipur in 1904-05. The variations under "*Other heads*" do not call for any special remarks.

(*b*) REVENUE AND FINANCE OTHER THAN IMPERIAL.

Provincial Revenue.

157. PROVINCIAL REVENUE.—The following statement compares the actuals of the two years 1904-05 and 1905-06. The major heads under which striking differences occurred are shown in detail and the others are lumped together:—

Revenue and Receipts.	Actuals.		Expenditure.	Actuals.	
	1904-05.	1905-06.		1904-05.	1905-06.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Opening Balance ...	15,01,000	8,00,000	Land Revenue ...	13,94,587	14,27,422
			Excise ...	13,513	24,100
Land Revenue { Proper ...	43,64,779	42,93,468	Forest ...	5,33,099	5,26,285
Land Revenue { Adjustment ...	33,19,710	74,18,033	Law and Justice—Courts of Law.	12,24,694	12,91,885
Stamps ...	11,59,214	12,23,833	Law and Justice—Jails ...	4,44,951	5,28,172
Excise ...	7,93,962	9,59,978	Police ...	15,78,316	17,09,949
Provincial Rates ..	2,40,839	52,553	Education ..	5,83,424	5,98,962
Forest ...	6,76,410	8,66,265	Medical ...	4,24,479	3,85,479
Interest ...	80,358	68,305	Scientific and other Minor Departments.	1,52,614	2,19,870
Law and Justice—Jails ...	1,56,572	2,24,786	Stationery and Printing ...	3,18,274	2,39,481
Scientific and other Minor Departments.	33,995	42,042	Miscellaneous ..	2,95,478	1,22,050
Miscellaneous ...	1,05,918	1,35,125	Civil Works—Civil ..	36,524	23,922
Civil Works—P. W. Department.	95,975	1,18,361	Civil Works—Public Works Department.	36,07,406	37,28,398
Contributions from Local Funds.	1,68,374	1,76,403	Contributions to Local Funds.	3,56,728	6,09,590
			Other heads ...	13,89,447	13,70,941
Other heads ...	4,56,428	4,62,264	Total ..	1 23,53 534	1,28,06,506
Total ...	1,16,52,534	1,60,41,506	Closing Balance ..	8,00,000	40,35,000
GRAND TOTAL ...	1,31,53,534	1,68,41,506	GRAND TOTAL ...	1,31,53,534	1,68,41,506

158. PROVINCIAL REVENUES.—The variations under the divided heads (*i. e.*, from *Land Revenue*, to *Forest*) have been explained in the section "*Imperial Revenue and Finance,*" while those under "*Other heads*" are given below.

The increase under "*Law and Justice—Jails*" was due to the supply of bhagri cloth to the Supply and Transport Department by the Central Jail at Jubbulpore; under "*Scientific and other Minor Departments*" to more receipts under "*Public Exhibitions and Fairs*"; under *Miscellaneous* to unusually heavy lapses of *Unclaimed Deposits* and to larger recoveries from the *Court of Wards* for the cost of Local Audit and the general management; under "*Civil Works (Public Works Department)*" due to higher receipts on account of Rents of Buildings and Ferry Receipts. The decreases under "*Provincial Rates*" and under "*Interest*" were due to the abolition of the "*Additional Rates for Famine Insurance*" from 1st April 1905 under the former head and to smaller recoveries under the latter on account of "*Interest on Advances to Cultivators*" as the balance of takavi loans was reduced by large remissions. The differences under "*Contributions*" and "*Other heads*" do not call for special remarks.

On the expenditure side the increase was the result of the following. Under "*Land Revenue*" to more expenditure on Survey Operations than in 1904-05; under "*Excise*" to the reorganization of the Department; under "*Law and Justice —Courts of Law*" mainly for the appointment of the Government Advocate and on the transfer of the office of the Judicial Commissioner, Berar, to Nagpur; under "*Jails*" to the manufacture of bhagri cloth by the Central Jail at Jubbulpore for supply to the Supply and Transport Department; under "*Police*" to the partial introduction of the Police reforms; under "*Education*" to larger expenditure on Government Colleges and Schools and to the creation of the posts of the fourth Inspector and an Inspectress of Schools at the latter part of the year 1904-05; under "*Scientific and other Minor Departments*" to the appointment of a Director and a Deputy Director of Agriculture and to larger expenditure on purchase of farms, cattle and implements out of the special assignment of Rs. 1,40,000 sanctioned by the Government of India for agricultural and veterinary development; under "*Civil Works (Public Works Department)*" to more expenditure on buildings and under "*Contributions to Local Funds*" to the payment of Rs. 1,60,000 for improvement of primary education and Rs. 1,10,000 for improvement of local works sanctioned by the Government of India. Decreases occurred under "*Forest*" due to the cessation of departmental working in some of the Forest Divisions; under "*Stationery and Printing*" on account of less supply of stationery than in 1904-05 from the Central Stores; under "*Miscellaneous*" to larger remissions of advances to cultivators in 1904-05; and under "*Civil Works (Civil)*" on account of less grants to Municipalities than in 1904-05.

159. LOCAL FUNDS.—These funds comprise Incorporated and Excluded Local Funds. The income, expenditure and the opening and closing balances of the Incorporated Local Funds for the year 1905-06 were as follows:—

Name of the Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Expenditure.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
District Funds	3,40,835	15,38,766	18,79,601	15,02,998	3,76,603
Patwari Fund	...	5,99,522	5,99,522	5,99,522	...
Inland Labour Transport Fund ...	5,266	4,549	9,815	2,272	7,543
Total ..	3,46,101	21,42,837	24,88,938	21,04,792	3,84,146

160. ROAD AND EDUCATION CESSES.—These cesses form the most important source of the income of the District Funds and amounted to Rs. 2,64,648 and Rs. 1,86,311 against Rs. 2,79,636 and Rs. 1,86,921 in 1904-05, respectively. The fall under the former head was chiefly due to suspensions of cesses and the transfer of the Sambalpur District to the Government of Bengal. Another important receipt of these funds is the contribution from the Provincial

Government of Rs. 5,24,744 against Rs. 2,80,755 in 1904-05. The increase in 1905-06 was on account of the special contributions of Rs. 1,60,000 and Rs. 1,10,000 sanctioned by the Government of India for improvement of Primary Education and Local Works.

The receipts of the Patwari Fund consist of village and patwari cess which amounted to Rs. 5,14,271 against Rs. 5,51,421 in 1904-05. The receipts included a contribution of Rs. 84,965 from the Provincial Revenues, sanctioned by the Government of India, to cover the deficit of the fund on the 31st March 1906. The deficit was due to increased expenditure on the Land Record staff and Patwaris.

161. EXCLUDED LOCAL FUNDS.—These are Cantonments, Town and Bazar Funds, Police Remount Fund, Dispensary Funds, Museum Funds and Famine Orphan Charitable Relief Fund. The total transactions and the balances are shown in the statement under "*Gross Revenue*".

162. MUNICIPAL REVENUES.—The transactions and the balances of the Municipal Funds are also shown in the statement under "*Gross Revenue*".

PART II.—BERAR.

GROSS REVENUE.

163. The following statement compares the receipts, expenditure and closing balance under the various heads for 1904-05 and 1905-06 :— **Gross Revenue.**

Heads.	Receipts.		Expenditure.		Closing Balance.	
	1904-05.	1905-06.	1904-05.	1905-06.	1904-05.	1905-06.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
General Revenue ...	1,27,52,835	1,39,74,563	66,05,808	69,75,238	61,47,027	69,99,325
Local Funds—						
Incorporated ...	11,56,539	11,70,544	10,64,835	10,73,714	10,92,027	11,88,857
Excluded ...	79,325	76,983	65,917	80,273	51,269	47,979
Municipal Revenues ...	2,88,160	3,22,696	2,77,245	3,43,019	2,67,001	2,46,678
Total ...	1,42,76,859	1,55,44,786	80,13,805	84,72,244	75,57,324	84,82,839

NOTE.—The differences in the figures under columns "1904-05" as compared with those shown in the statement on page 38 of the Administration Report for the year 1904-05 were due to supplementary adjustments in the accounts for that year.

(a) IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE.

164. The following statement shows the Imperial receipts and expenditure of Berar as compared with those of 1904-05 :— **Imperial Revenue and Finance.**

Receipts.	1904-05.	1905-06.	Expenditure.	1904-05.	1905-06.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Principal Heads of Revenue.			*Direct Demands on the Revenue.*		
I.—Land Revenue ..	81,22,012	82,69,947	1.—Refunds and drawbacks.	24,178	37,424
II.—Opium ...	...	3,268	2.—Assignments and Compensations.	25,12,533	25,05,672
IV.—Stamps ...	8,90,042	9,31,878	3.—Land Revenue ...	14,83,216	14,90,056
V.—Excise ...	24,46,388	34,02,635	4.—Opium ...	...	45
VII.—Customs ...	17,876	19,033	6.—Stamps ...	52,169	45,252
VIII.—Assessed Taxes ...	2,55,987	2,56 674	7.—Excise ...	22,403	49,784
IX.—Forest ...	6,60,640	7,16,601	10.—Assessed Taxes ...	...	9,327
X.—Registration ...	1,03,249	1,23,256	11.—Forest ...	2,54,418	2,54,799
			12.—Registration ...	46,903	48,371
Total ...	1,24,96,194	1,37,23,292			
XII.—Interest ...	17,625	15,586	Total ...	43,95,820	44,40,730
Receipts by Civil Departments.			14.—Interest on other obligations.	...	5
XVI-A.—Law and Justice—Courts of Law.	49,290	42,791	15.—Post Office ...	1,377	1,294
XVI-B.—Law and Justice—Jails.	20,757	21,635	*Salaries and expenses of Civil Departments.*		
XVII.—Police ...	66,272	62,319			
XIX.—Education ...	36,991	40,898	18.—General Administration.	59,481	61,099
XX.—Medical ...	1,348	959	19-A.—Law and Justice—Courts of Law.	3,12,455	3,27,339
XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments.	213	205	19-B.—Law and Justice—Jails.	83,711	87,567
			20.—Police ...	5,28,066	5,29,744
			22.—Education ...	1,89,757	2,38,901
			23.—Ecclesiastical ...	9,703	10,560
			24.—Medical ...	1,42,461	1,44,291
			26.—Scientific and other Minor Departments.	14,355	59,481
Total ...	1,74,871	1,68,807	Total ...	13,39,989	14,58,982

Receipts.	1904-05.	1905-06.	Expenditure.	1904-05.	1905-06.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Miscellaneous.			*Miscellaneous Civil Charges.*		
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuations.	25,159	4,708	27.—Territorial ...	5,694	6,068
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing.	3,409	3,644	28.—Civil Furlough and Absentee Allowances.	...	55
XXV.—Miscellaneous ...	17,843	45,356	29.—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.	1,45,445	1,47,809
			30.—Stationery and Printing.	32,728	23,957
			32.—Miscellaneous ...	18,005	5,969
Total ...	46,411	53,708	Total ...	2,01,872	1,83,858
Other Public Works.			*Other Public Works.*		
XXXII.—Civil Works ...	17,734	13,170	45.—Civil Works ...	6,66,750	8,90,369
GRAND TOTAL ...	1,27,52,835	1,39,74,563	Grand Total ...	66,05,808	69,75,238

RECEIPTS.

165. LAND REVENUE.—The improvement in 1905-06 was mainly on account of larger tracts of land brought under cultivation and to sale-proceeds of waste lands.

166. CANAL REVENUE.—There was no revenue under this head.

SOURCES OF REVENUE OTHER THAN LAND.

167. *Opium.*—The actuals represent the cost of Ghazipur opium obtained in advance of its introduction from 1st April 1906.

Stamps.—Commercial activity mainly accounted for the increase.

Excise.—The introduction of the Madras system in all the districts accounted for the large increase under this head.

Forests.—The increase was due to greater demand for timber, firewood and grass.

Registration.—There was a great tendency towards registering documents, and hence larger increase.

Law and Justice—Courts of Law.—The fall was under a fluctuating head "*Sale-proceeds of unclaimed and escheated property.*"

Receipts in aid of Superannuation.—The adjustment of the contributions for pensions of District Board employés was made through the head "*Land Revenue*" in the current year, and hence the decrease under this head as compared with 1904-05.

Miscellaneous.—Larger receipts under *Unclaimed Deposits* in 1905-06 account for the increase.

EXPENDITURE.

168. The variations are as follows:—

Refunds and Drawbacks.—There were larger refunds under "*Land Revenue and Stamps*" than in 1904-05.

Assignments and Compensations.—Some of the claimants did not appear to receive Jaglia cess compensations, and hence the decrease.

Land Revenue.—The separation of the Judicial and the Executive services, and the reduction of districts from 6 to 4 with effect from 1st September 1905, explains the decrease.

Stamps.—Less supply of Stamp paper, owing to the transfer of the Court of the Judicial Commissioner, Berar, to Nagpur, is the cause of the decrease in the current year.

Excise.—The increase was on account of the improvement of the Excise Administration.

Assessed Taxes.—The charges in the current year represent the commission paid for collection of Income-tax under "*Ordinary Collections*" which was introduced from 1st April 1904.

Law and Justice—Courts of Law.—The increase was on account of the opening of additional Courts in consequence of the separation of Judicial and Executive duties from 1st September 1905. The savings caused by the transfer of the Court of the Judicial Commissioner, Berar, to Nagpur, and the abolition of two Small Cause Courts were not sufficient to cover the above excess expenditure.

Education.—Larger expenditure on primary education, and the payment of a grant of Rs. 30,000 to the Victoria Technical Institute, Amraoti, chiefly accounted for the increase under this head.

SCIENTIFIC AND OTHER MINOR DEPARTMENTS.

169. The increase was on account of the purchase of a farm at Akola and for fitting it up with machinery, &c. This was met out of the special grant of Rs. 80,000 sanctioned by the Government of India.

Stationery and Printing.—The decrease was due to less expenditure on Stationery obtained from the Central Stores and under Lithography.

Miscellaneous.—The increase in 1904-05 was due to the debit of Rs. 8,233 raised by the Military Department for supply of guns, &c., in connection with the celebration of the Birthday of His Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad at Amraoti. The contribution of Rs. 2,400 paid to the Ellichpur Cantonment was also stopped on the abolition of the Cantonment.

Civil Works.—The increase was on account of larger expenditure on Police buildings.

(*b*) REVENUE AND FINANCE OTHER THAN IMPERIAL.

170. *Local Funds.*—The funds comprising them are the Incorporated and the Excluded Local Funds. The revenue, expenditure and the opening and closing balances of these funds are as follows:—

Name of the Funds.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
District Funds ...	10,92,027	11,70,544	22,62,571	10,73,714	11,88,857
Excluded Local Funds ...	51,269	76,983	1,28,252	80,273	47,979
Total ...	11,43,296	12,47,527	23,90,823	11,53,987	12,36,836

District Fund.—The source of income to this fund is the surplus transfer of the following cesses:— "Jaglia and Local Cess," "Education Cess," "Road Cess" and "Bazar Cess." A contribution of Rs. 1,87,550 was also made to this fund from the Imperial Revenues during the year under report for education purposes and improvement of Civil Works.

Excluded Local Funds.—The following are the Excluded Local Funds in Berar:—Taluq Fund, Melghat, and Grain and Cotton Market Funds.

Municipal Funds.—The transactions and balances of these Funds are given in the table under "*Gross Revenue.*"

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES.

1.—DETAILS OF CENSUS.

DETAILS OF CENSUS.

171. An account of the above subject will be found on pages 31—52 of the Report on the administration of the Central Provinces for 1901-02, and on pages 22—25 of the Report on the administration of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts for the same year.

2.—BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending December 31, 1905, and Table XIII-2—13 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1905-06.]

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

System of registration.

172. No change was made in the system of registering vital statistics in the Central Provinces, but in Berar their compilation has been transferred from the Police to the Civil Surgeons. The returns, owing to the transfer of Sambalpur to Bengal, relate to a reduced area, but after these changes have been taken into consideration the total population at the end of 1905 was 12,757,093, or an increase of 7·31 per cent on the enumerated population of 1901. This figure has been obtained by adding the excess of births over deaths during 1901—1905 to the census figure of 1901, omitting fluctuations due to emigration and immigration. A large number of village report-books were checked by inspecting officers and omissions were found to amount to only about 1 per cent. In order to obtain more accurate information on the prevalent causes of mortality, the employment of a professional agency in one or two selected areas is under consideration.

Births.

173. The total number of births registered during the year was 642,199, showing a birth-rate of 54·02 per mille, compared with 53·19 in 1904, the increase being especially noticeable in the southern and eastern districts of the Provinces. Births exceeded deaths again in every district, and the rural birth-rate is still almost universally higher than the urban.

Deaths.

174. The ratio per mille of deaths in the combined provinces was 37·21, a very high figure compared with 32·06 of the previous year. More than half the mortality of the year arose from fever and allied complaints, and in this further proof is given of the truth of the conclusion arrived at in other years, that a year of delayed and heavy rainfall following on a dry year usually leads to deterioration in the public health. The most serious feature of this mortality was that out of the total of 442,383 recorded deaths no less than 267,641 occurred among children under five years of age. The high mortality may be explained in part by the exceptionally high birth-rate of the past four years, but is probably due to a great extent to the insanitary conditions in which the masses live, so that a single unhealthy season has a most serious effect.

Chief diseases.

175. There was a marked diminution in the virulence of plague and only 12,706 deaths were recorded, but after the close of the year there was a severe outbreak in the south of the province and no relaxation of preventive measures was possible. Such outbreaks of cholera as occurred were all more or less indigenous, and the number of deaths decreased from 2,967 to 1,217. On the other hand there was a large increase in the deaths from small-pox, especially among children, and it is noticeable that those districts suffered most where the work of vaccination had been interrupted by epidemics of plague during the preceding years.

Special measures.

176. Special attention was paid during the year to the prevention, as far as possible, of outbreaks of plague. Inoculation was carried on in four districts with excellent results, but the prejudice against it shows little sign of diminution. The people, however, are beginning thoroughly to understand the value of rat-extermination, and in Jubbulpore and Bhandara, where the most energetic measures were taken, the inhabitants were practically immune. As regards the treatment of snake-bites the distribution of permanganate and lancet cases has been too recent to allow of any reliable information being obtained as to their efficacy. In spite of the increase in fevers recorded during the year the sale of quinine only showed a very slight increase, and it is impossible as yet to say whether the quinine which is now sold in a new form will be more popular than the old.

3.—EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

[Report on Inland Emigration of the Central Provinces for the year ending 30th June 1906, and Table XXXV-4 of the Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India.]

Emigration.

177. The number of emigrants from the Central Provinces has increased and the number of contractors and recruiters has also risen. The number of emigrants recruited amounted to 3,690, of whom 2,319 were males, an increase of 1,603, and they were accompanied by 1,265 dependents. Most of the coolies were recruited in the Jubbulpore, Raipur and Bilaspur districts, and owing to the partial failure of the rice crops in the latter district most of the increase occurred there. Elsewhere, however, in the province, owing to the increasing demand for labour and the rise in the wages of unskilled labour, recruitment was slack.

Health of emigrants.

178. The depôts provided for the coolies were regularly inspected by Medical officers and found satisfactory. The health of the coolies remained good throughout the year and no outbreak of epidemic disease occurred in any depôt.

Working of Act VI of 1901.

179. Irregularities in recruiting were seldom committed and the offences against the provisions of the Act, which came to the notice of the Courts, were few in number and not of a serious character.

Financial.

180. The total receipts from fees amounted to Rs. 4,307: of this sum Rs. 3,067 came from registration fees, the remainder consisting of license fees. Against this there was an expenditure, chiefly on the pay and allowances of Registration Clerks, of Rs. 756.

Immigration.

181. No immigration into the Central Provinces and Berar was reported during the year.

4.—MEDICAL RELIEF.

MEDICAL RELIEF.

[Report on the Charitable Dispensaries in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1905 and Table XIV-2—6 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for the year 1905-06.]

Number of Dispensaries.

182. The total number of hospitals and dispensaries in the Central Provinces and Berar was 235 at the close of the year: 24 were opened and 32 closed, but included among the latter were 16 which were transferred to Bengal. Many of the dispensaries were re-classified and there are now 34 supported by the State, 127 from Local Funds and the remainder are either private institutions or are maintained by railways.

Number of patients.

183. The number of patients has increased by 8 per cent, and though the main increase has been in the number of male patients, the attendance of females is satisfactory, considering that in many places no special arrangements exist for the separate treatment of female out-patients. The increase in the number of patients is most marked in the northern districts and in Berar, but plague again militated to some extent against a larger attendance, and the fall in the number of out-door patients at the hospitals in Nagpur is probably due to the removal of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway workshops to Kharagpur. The ratio of deaths to the total number of patients treated, though low, has risen slightly and is attributed to the admission into hospital of a large number of destitute or moribund persons.

MEDICAL RELIEF.

184. There are 26 private dispensaries maintained chiefly by Missionary bodies and 19 by Feudatory States. After the changes in territory and the number of dispensaries have been taken into account, the figures show an increase of 25,000 patients treated, affording evidence of the good which these institutions continue to do. **Private Dispensaries.**

185. The most important variations in 1905, as compared with the previous year, were an increase under ulcers and a renewed rise in the number of skin diseases. There was little alteration in the number of cases of malaria treated and the figures under the other diseases call for no comment. **Relative frequency of diseases.**

186. The number of surgical operations performed was almost the same as in the previous year and amounted to 40,942. Many of the operations were of an unimportant nature, but operations for cataract are still considerable. **Surgical operations.**

187. The total receipts amounted to a little under five lakhs of rupees and fell short of the income of 1904 by about Rs. 4,000. This decrease was chiefly due to the smaller native subscriptions, which in 1904 had been especially generous. In the Berar Districts especially little or nothing was collected in the shape of payment for medical aid, and the subscriptions are not so liberal as they might be. **Income.**

188. The total expenditure rose from Rs. 3,64,143 to Rs. 3,65,011, but in this total is included expenditure on the Dufferin Hospital, Nagpur, and on new Local Fund Dispensaries. **Expenditure.**

5.—TREATMENT OF THE INSANE.

TREATMENT OF THE INSANE.

[Triennial Report on the Lunatic Asylums in the Central Provinces for the year 1903, 1904 and 1905, and Table XV-2—8 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1905-06.]

189. There were 358 criminal and non-criminal lunatics in the Nagpur and Jubbulpore Asylums, the number being practically identical with that of the preceding year. Of these 91 were criminals. The diet of the inmates of the Nagpur Asylum was changed from millet to wheat, and their health was much improved, the daily average of sick falling from 13·10 in the previous year to 4·69. The percentage of sickness at Jubbulpore remained almost constant. In both asylums, however, the mortality increased, owing to the death of a number of very old and epileptic lunatics. **Numbers and Health.**

190. More care was taken in ascertaining the causes of insanity and correspondingly greater success was attained, so that in only one instance was the cause of insanity not traceable. In the majority of admissions to both asylums the chief causes have again, as in former years, been ganja-smoking, spirit-drinking, epilepsy and heredity. **Investigation of causes.**

191. The average cost per head in the Nagpur Asylum was Rs. 107-14-1 and Rs. 75-15-11 at Jubbulpore; this is an increase on former years, but is due to the revision of the diet scale and of establishment. The charges at Nagpur were considerable owing to improvements to the dairy, which, however, is a profitable investment and repays expenditure. **Expenditure.**

192. In Nagpur the inmates were occupied in garden and farm work, and many of them improved considerably in their physical and mental condition. At Jubbulpore the lunatics were employed in manufacturing clothing and bedding for themselves and uniforms for the warders and also on gardening. The scheme for the establishment of a Central Asylum at Chhindwara was, owing to certain disadvantages which it presented, abandoned; though it cannot be denied that the existing arrangements are by no means up to the standard of modern scientific requirements, they are not so seriously defective as to make the construction of a Central Asylum a matter of great urgency. It will probably, however, become necessary before very long to remove the Jubbulpore Asylum, the site of which is not suitable for an asylum, to another place. **Industries and improvements.**

6.—SANITATION.

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces for the year 1905, and Table XIII-2—13 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1905-06.]

Chief sanitary works.

193. No original works of importance were completed during the year, but good progress was made in connection with the Seoni water-works. At Nagpur considerable sums were spent on the extension of the water-supply and the drainage system. A comprehensive drainage scheme for the whole town was prepared some time ago, and it is hoped that the Municipality will be able to finance the undertaking should the scheme be professionally approved. At Wardha the drainage survey was commenced, but no further progress was made, as the scheme was found to be incomplete in some particulars. At Akola, good progress was made in the construction of main intercepting drains.

Municipal sanitation.

194 Municipalities as a rule have shown great energy in providing a good water-supply, but the provision of proper drainage has been neglected, with the result that, in spite of the benefits of water-works, the mortality of the towns has not decreased. The appointment of a Sanitary Engineer to supervise sanitary undertakings is under consideration. Meanwhile the question of drainage has not been altogether overlooked, and in Nagpur Rs. 6,000 were spent on the construction of drains and considerable sums were spent on similar undertakings in Jubbulpore, Khandwa, Seoni and Raipur. The water-supply was improved in Seoni, Bhandara and Amraoti.

Rural sanitation.

195. During the year the Village Sanitation Act was made applicable to five more villages in the Central Provinces. The total sum expended under its provisions amounted to over Rs. 2c,000 as compared with Rs. 18,000 in 1904. The same features in expenditure are again noticeable, and the amount spent on improving the water-supply is insignificant. The construction of new wells and the repair of old ones continued to be undertaken by the various District Councils and by the Sanitary Board, which held meetings at all district head-quarters. Rs. 21,600 were spent by private persons mainly on the construction of new wells. In the rural tracts it is impossible to effect any rapid improvement and the villages of the provinces do not compare unfavourably in respect of sanitary comfort with those of other parts of India. It is impossible at present to do more than encourage the adoption of simple sanitary improvements in small villages and enforce some observance of sanitary rules in places that are of sufficient importance to be brought under the Village Sanitation Act.

7.—VACCINATION.

VACCINATION.

[Note on Vaccination in the Central Provinces for 1905-06, and Table XVI-2—8 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1905-06.]

General Record of Vaccinations.

196. The total number of operations performed by Vaccinators and Hospital Assistants was 625,848, or 28,671 more than were carried out over a similar area in 1904. The increase was distributed over most of the districts, but in Nagpur there was a falling-off of 3,641, chiefly due to plague and an epidemic of small-pox which greatly interfered with vaccination. Each Vaccinator performed on an average 2,120 operations or rather more than in the previous year. There was a considerable increase in the number of re-vaccinations, amounting to 13,762. This result was due to special efforts which were made to induce people to get themselves re-vaccinated, efforts which in some districts were aided by the prevalence of small-pox. The percentage of successful vaccinations was 64·89 and of primary vaccinations 97·21.

Vaccination in Municipalities.

197. The Vaccination Act was extended to Pulgaon in the Wardha District and to Dhamtari in Raipur. The results of the vaccination of children in municipalities were satisfactory and 23,523 operations were successfully performed.

VACCINATION.

198. The mortality from small-pox in the Central Provinces as in Berar was higher than in any of the 10 preceding years: the proportion however per *mille* of population protected during the year by vaccination was 43·42 against 41·20 in 1904. The figures returned of the number of vaccinated children under one year of age are probably incorrect, and accordingly no reliable conclusions can be drawn. The disease was particularly prevalent again in Buldana and also in Wardha, Bilaspur and Damoh. **Mortality from small-pox.**

199. Glycerinated calf lymph was again most largely used and was employed in 502,401 cases, giving a percentage of 93·14 successes. Other kinds which were also used were fresh calf lymph, human lymph and lanolinated lymph, in 32,536, 19,555 and 4,951 cases, respectively. The lymph was prepared as a rule at the head-quarters of the districts, but in some instances where it was impossible to supply it in sufficient quantities it was prepared in the interior. **Lymph.**

200. As compared with the previous year there was an increase of Rs. 3,998-4-0 in the total cost of the Provincial Vaccination Department, due mainly to promotion of the members of the Vaccination Department of the Central Provinces in consequence of the reorganization of the department, to the entertainment of additional men and to the increase of travelling allowance charges, and also to the extra cost incurred in connection with the manufacture of glycerinated lymph. The average cost of each successful case rose from one anna and eleven pies to two annas. In the Feudatory States the vaccination charges amounted to Rs. 4,749-15-1 or Rs. 306-6-9 more than in 1904-05, the average cost of each successful case being one anna and three pies against one anna and four pies in the preceding year. **Expenditure.**

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

1.—GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

201. An account of this subject will be found at pages 118 to 124 of the Report on the administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1901-02, and also at pages 80 to 83 of the Report on the administration of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts for the same year.

2.—EDUCATION.

EDUCATION.

[Report on the state and progress of Education in the Central Provinces for the year 1905-06 and Table X-1, 2, 3-I, 3-J, 4-I, 5-D, 5-E, 6-J, 6-K, 7-J, 7-K, 8-I, 8-J, 9-E, 9-F, 10-I, 10-J and Table XI of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for the year 1905-06.]

Number of Schools and Scholars.

202. The chief difficulties which have during recent years retarded the progress of educational effort in these Provinces have been the disturbing influence of plague, and the inelasticity of Provincial Revenues. During the year the first cause has again been operative, especially in the larger centres, but it has been possible to devote much larger sums to educational objects. The number of schools indeed decreased from 3,115 to 3,090, but the decrease was due to a fall of 70 in the number of schools in Berar. The number of scholars, on the other hand, including those in the Feudatory States, rose from 223,310, to 224,717. The figures for the Central Provinces and Berar alone showed an increase of 11,731, but the Feudatory States exhibited a decrease owing to the transfer of four large States to Bengal. The increase was noticeable both in Primary and Secondary schools. There are still wide areas, however, which at present are devoid of educational facilities, but it is hoped that with the increased funds now available this will soon be remedied.

Features of the year's work.

203. No changes of great importance were made during the year, but there were some of a minor character. The Provincial grant to District Councils made possible the attempt to substitute for low-paid monitors certificated assistant masters on a minimum pay of Rs. 10 per mensem—a reform which has resulted in increasing the popularity of service in the lower ranks of the Department. The supply of certificated assistant masters has, however, proved unequal to the demand. The Female Normal School was removed from Nagpur to Amraoti, but the change has not yet been attended with much success. A scheme was under consideration for reorganizing the range of Deputy Inspectors in Berar and amalgamating the cadre with that of the Central Provinces.

Expenditure on Education.

204. The total educational expenditure amounted to Rs. 22,38,378, representing an increase of Rs. 3,63,838 in comparison with the figures of the preceding year. The increase was shared by all classes of institutions, but much of it was due to expenditure on buildings and furniture, especially in the construction of girls' schools. A grant of two lakhs was made by the Government of India for Primary education and of this the whole except Rs. 30,000 was distributed to District Councils. The Councils found it impossible to utilize the grants to their full extent owing to the difficulty of securing qualified teachers, but their expenditure on Primary education rose from Rs. 5,32,433 to Rs. 6,93,192, and the total expenditure on Primary schools from all sources amounted to Rs. 8,47,393. Of the total expenditure on all classes of schools 7 per cent was met from fees, 5 per cent from Municipal Funds, and most of the rest was provided in equal shares by Provincial Revenues and District Funds. Owing largely to liberal public subscriptions two new Municipal High schools were started at Wardha and Hinganghat, a sign of the growth of public interest in higher education.

University Education.

205. There are three colleges in the Central Provinces—the Government College at Jubbulpore and the Morris and Hislop Colleges at Nagpur. At Jubbulpore the number of scholars increased from 96 to 111 and 6 candidates passed

the B. A. examination. The two colleges at Nagpur only passed 6 pupils for the B. A. and 18 for the F. A. degree, but the work at both of them was considerably interfered with by plague and there has been no appreciable increase in the numbers of students.

Secondary Education.

206. The number of Secondary schools in British Territory remained almost stationary, but the number of pupils rose from 39,465 to 41,433. There seemed to be a tendency in former years for Vernacular Middle schools to diminish in popularity, but, though the number of these institutions shows a small decline, the increase in the number of pupils appears to show that the tendency has been arrested. Other institutions providing Secondary education show an increase in the number of pupils, and in most cases the daily average attendance and the results of examination were satisfactory. Anglo-Vernacular Middle schools were generally well equipped and well-managed: but it was found necessary temporarily to close some schools in Berar on account of plague.

Primary Education.

207. The number of scholars and the daily average attendance have increased considerably and show that the pupils from indigenous schools have been largely absorbed by the Board schools. This has been more particularly the case in Berar, where in one district alone 20 Board schools were opened by the District Council. The management of the District Councils was throughout satisfactory, and the state of the schools as regards buildings, instruction and physical training was generally good. The special grant which was allotted for Primary education was almost entirely spent in erecting new buildings and improving the staff. The question of changing the curriculum of Primary schools in order to substitute Nature study for the teaching of agriculture was discussed, but, though further improvement is doubtless possible, the Primary schools are admittedly good and it is not considered advisable to introduce changes with undue haste.

Training Schools.

208. There are six Government schools for the training of teachers, two being at Jubbulpore and the others at Nagpur, Raipur, Amraoti and Akola. Additions have been made to the staff at Jubbulpore, Raipur and Nagpur and in Jubbulpore there was a very large increase in the number of pupils. The removal of the Female Normal School from Nagpur to Amraoti has not shown as yet very satisfactory results, but it is hoped that in time the same success may be obtained there as has been achieved in Jubbulpore. The demand, however, for certificated teachers is still greater than the Normal schools can cope with, but uncertificated are being replaced by certificated teachers whenever it is possible. The total number of pupils on the rolls was 411 as against 412, and 159 teachers' certificates were awarded.

Technical Education.

209. Though no very great material progress can be recorded, the question of improving the facilities for technical education has occupied serious attention, and with the opening of the Victoria Technical Institute at Nagpur and the addition of a second State Technical Scholarship more progress in technical instruction may be expected in the future than was possible in the past. Of the institutions which were working during the year the Engineering School at Jubbulpore maintained its popularity and continued to show satisfactory results in examinations. There was also a slight increase in the number attending the Normal Agricultural Class at Nagpur referred to in Chapter IV of this Report. The Reformatory School at Jubbulpore provided instruction to 95 boys, but both there and in the Industrial School at Amraoti the numbers were smaller than in the previous year. The teaching of handicrafts to boys and of needlework to girls was carried on at the St. Francis de Sales' School and the Convent School at Nagpur, and other Missions also continued the satisfactory work they have always done.

Female Education.

210. The number of girls' schools increased from 223 to 251 and the attendance rose from 11,363 to 12,410. The provincialization of girls' schools maintained by Local Bodies in Berar was carried out and the increase in the number of pupils in schools directly managed by Government gives further proof of the success of the change. Two Assistant Inspectresses have been appointed to relieve the Inspectress of part of her touring work, and increased popularity

EDUCATION.

and an improved standard of education may be expected. Good work in training teachers continues to be done by Missionary agencies, but great difficulty is still found in securing trained teachers, especially in the Marathi-speaking parts of the Provinces.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

3.—LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

[Table XII-1 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1905-06.]

Publications.

211. During the year 51 books were published against 34 in the previous year. Of these 26 were in Hindi, and 25 in Marathi, 12 were poetical works, 2 religious, 3 dramatic, 5 literary and 1 historical. Twenty-one dealt with miscellaneous subjects, 5 with geography. One treated of Mental and Moral Science and one of Natural Science.

The Vernacular Press.

212. There were 20 newspapers and periodicals published in the Central Provinces and Berar during the year. None of these has, however, any wide circulation.

Printing Presses.

213. There are in all 51 printing presses in the Provinces, of which 16 are in Berar.

LITERARY SOCIETIES.

4.—LITERARY SOCIETIES.

214. During the year, there were 56 Scientific and Literary Societies in the Provinces against 91 in the previous year. Most of these are subscription libraries, depending for support mainly on subscriptions from members. In the case of 20 societies, however, the source of income is augmented by grants from Government and Municipal Funds.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

5.—ARTS AND SCIENCES.

[Report on the Department of Agriculture, Central Provinces, for 1905-06.]

215. The only two Museums in the Provinces are the Provincial Museum at Nagpur and a small local one at Raipur. Considerable improvements have been effected in the former Museum, the cost being met from a grant from Provincial Revenues, and, a committee of management having been formed, a general scheme for the future maintenance of the Museum is under consideration. An assistant was deputed by the Director-General of Geology to arrange and catalogue the geological specimens, and the archæological exhibits have been similarly treated. The appointment of a taxidermist has been sanctioned and an archæological assistant toured through the province with a view to collecting more specimens of archæological interest. The number of visitors rose from 66,715 to 137,940, and the expenditure was Rs. 2,575. At the Raipur Museum, where the number of visitors rose from 88,249 to 116,993, a small establishment is maintained to demonstrate the working of the fly-shuttle loom in which the local weavers take considerable interest. The Museum Fund opened with a balance of Rs. 1,647, and the balance at the close of the year was Rs. 1,753.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

[For further information see Archæological Survey of India (New Series), Volume XIX.]

216. So far as the survey has gone, there are in the Provinces, except certain great forts and one or two mosques and temples, but few objects of sufficient antiquarian interest to justify their conservation or building operations on a large scale. Several buildings, however, have been restored. The ruins of the fort wall round Chanda city were taken in hand, the ramparts and bastions being rebuilt at a cost of Rs. 4,811 from Provincial funds and Rs. 1,999 from contributions. The temples at Sirpur, Janjgir, Pujaripali, Arbar, Sheonarayan, Eran, Nohta and Mandhata were repaired. The restoration also of the tombs at Burhanpur was effected at a cost of Rs. 2,890. Archæological operations, however, in the future will be more a matter of historical research than of spending large sums on the restoration of buildings.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION.

1.—ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION.

Ecclesiastical.

217. The diocese of Nagpur was formed in the year 1903. It includes the whole of the Central Provinces and Berar and also the whole of Central India, Ajmere-Merwara and all stations of Rajputana, excepting Mount Abu. No changes have taken place during the past year.

STATIONERY.

2—STATIONERY.

218. The cost of stationery used in the offices of the Central Provinces has increased from Rs. 1,03,948 in 1904-05 to Rs. 1,15,148 in 1905-06. The larger portion of this increase has occurred in the office of the Judicial Commissioner and in the Departments of Police, Education and Public Works. It is mainly attributed to the increased consumption resulting from the important reforms which have been introduced in the Police Department and to the reorganization of the Executive and Judicial branches of the Provincial Service.

The expenditure on stationery supplied to printing presses has decreased from Rs. 1,18,145 to Rs. 28,684, which is due to the fact that the Jail Press laid in a stock of stationery last year.

GENERAL.

3—GENERAL—MISCELLANEOUS.

The registration of rainfall.

219. Three new raingauge stations were established during the year and three were removed to more suitable sites: at the close of the year 82 raingauge stations were maintained and there were 11 observatories under the superintendence of the Meteorological Department. The number of stations in Berar remained the same, none being established or abolished; the only change was the removal of that at Patur to a more suitable position. The method of registering the rainfall was continued and the results obtained were satisfactory.

Co-operation with the Agricultural Chemist to the Government of India.

220. The only enquiry of importance initiated during the year was the examination of a superior kind of sugar-cane which had been discovered in the previous year. The results, however, of the analysis were not very satisfactory.

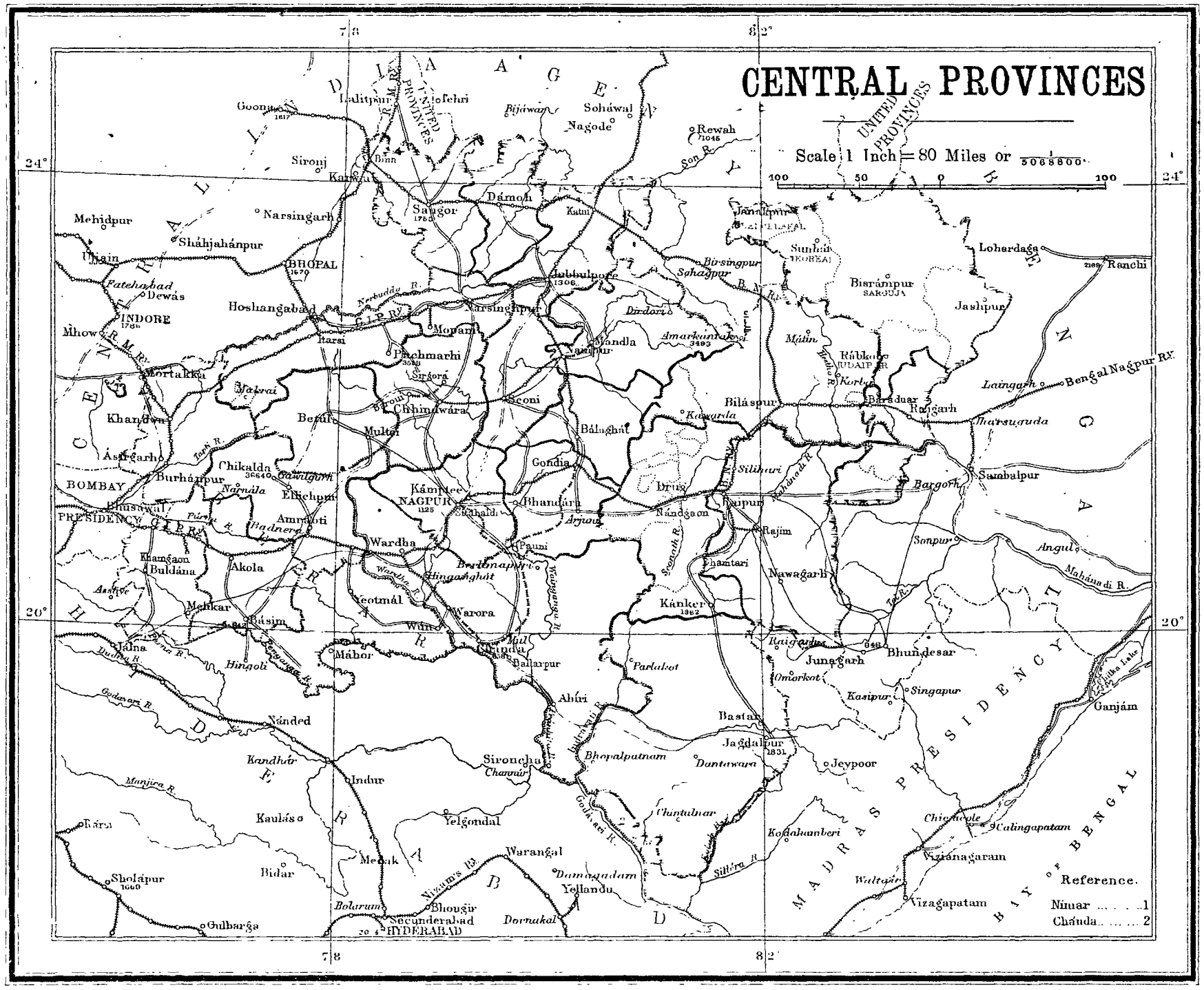
Co-operation with the Reporter on Economic Products.

221. At the request of the Reporter on Economic Products to the Government of India the following collections were made:—

(*a*) A collection of botanical specimens of different varieties of yams occurring in the districts of Berar was made and sent to him for examination. Several of the specimens have been identified and recorded in the collection of the Economic Museum at Calcutta.

(*b*) Botanical specimens of the gum known in vernacular as "Kat Khair" were obtained from the Balaghat District and sent to the Reporter. They have been identified as *Acacia ferruginea* and registered as such in the Calcutta Herbarium Collection.

(*c*) Enquiries were made as to the source of the native pens obtainable in the Provinces, and specimens and information regarding them forwarded to the Reporter. His report has not been received.



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ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

FOR

THE YEAR 1906-07.

PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Changes in the Administration.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. O. MILLER, C. S. I., I. C. S., held charge of the office of Chief Commissioner from the beginning of the year until the 4th March 1907, when he was appointed to be an Ordinary Member of the Council of the Governor-General of India. During this period, he was absent on privilege leave for three months from July to October 1906, and the Hon'ble Mr. S. ISMAY, C. S. I., I. C. S., officiated as Chief Commissioner. On Mr. MILLER's departure from the Province, the Hon'ble Mr. F. A. T. PHILLIPS, I. C. S., became Chief Commissioner, sub. *pro tem.*, and held charge till the 24th March 1907, when he was relieved by the Hon'ble Mr. R. H. CRADDOCK, C. S. I., I. C. S, who held charge till the end of the year under report.

Features of the year.

2. The monsoon of 1906 broke in good time, and the rain was generally ample and well distributed, though somewhat too heavy for the cotton crop. The rainfall was favourable for the germination of the spring crops, and enabled large areas of kharif land which had been somewhat damaged by excessive rain to be re-sown with rabi. The prospects of the spring crops were for a time imperilled by heavy rain and hail in February, but fortunately bright weather supervened in March, and the threatened dangers of rust, caterpillars and water-logging were averted, and the damage caused by the unseasonable weather restricted to a few localities which had been swept by hail. In spite of the comparative deficiency of the cotton crop, the total outturn of agricultural produce was almost equal to the normal yield of a normal area. The rice crop was generally good, and the wheat tracts of Chhattisgarh fared particularly well. The agricultural classes paid their rents or revenues without difficulty, while the continued demand for labour of all kinds enabled the labouring classes to maintain the greatly increased standard of comfort which has obtained among them of recent years.

Relations with Feudatory States.

3. The history of the Feudatory States continues to be characterised by unobtrusive but steady improvement. The majority of the Chiefs acquiesced contentedly in the guidance and advice of the Political Agent, while a more energetic minority displayed a more active co-operation, and took an intelligent

interest in the development and improvement of various branches of the administration. The States newly taken over from Bengal have cheerfully fallen into line with the other Feudatories, and the opportunity of giving an outward and visible demonstration of their unity was afforded by the Darbar convened at Raipur by the Hon'ble Mr. MILLER early in 1906. A generally favourable monsoon assured the material well-being of the people, who had no difficulty in paying in the Government demand, while their greater command of money led to a considerable expansion of the income from excise. The increasing stability of the population finds its expression in various ways, and notably in the strong demand in the new States by Chiefs, gaontias and tenants alike for a regular system of settlement. Finances were sound; there was no serious crime; health was good; education made solid progress. A notable sign of the times was the generous gift of half a lakh of rupees by the widow of the late Chief of Nandgaon for the construction, equipment and endowment of a hospital for women at Raj-Nandgaon.

The condition of the people.

4. The favourable monsoon and generally good crops confirmed the prosperity of the landlord and tenant bodies, who discharged their dues with ease, and the chief difficulty was the dearth of labour. The labouring classes continued to enjoy the high wages which are the natural consequence of the recent industrial development of the Provinces and the insufficiency of their own numbers to meet the demand for labour of all kinds. Crime remained at a low ebb. The birth-rate, though not quite so high as in the preceding year, still stood higher than in any other province of India, but the death-rate was lamentably high, and epidemics of cholera and plague wrought much havoc. With this exception, the year was, in both material and moral aspects, a satisfactory one.

Realization of the Revenue.

5. The total land revenue on the roll fell by about a lakh, owing to the transfer of a large part of Sambalpur to Bengal. Collections of the net demand were made practically in full and there was very little resort to coercive processes. Suspensions were granted to the extent of nearly two lakhs, chiefly in Bilaspur, where the rice crop failed in 1905-06.

Surveys.

6. A traverse survey of 86 square miles was carried out by the Imperial Survey Department, mostly in the Nimar district, and a supplementry topographical survey of 607 square miles was also completed in Narsinghpur. The Land Record staff re-surveyed some 30 square miles in Balaghat and 19 villages or parts of villages in Seoni. Extensive map-correction was also carried out in these two latter districts.

Settlements.

7. Settlement operations were in progress during the year ending 30th September 1906 in Chanda, Mandla, Sambalpur, Raipur and Bilaspur. The re-settlement of the first-named district was almost brought to a conclusion. Work was much hindered in Mandla by cholera and by inquiries into the condition of the spring crops, and in Bilaspur by an expected failure of the rice crop. Proposals were submitted for the inception of settlement operations in Jubbulpore and Seoni.

Land Records.

8. The year was marked by the abolition of the Patwari Cess, a measure which was welcome, not only to the agriculturists relieved of the burden of payment, but also to the Patwaris themselves, who now receive their whole pay in one sum from the Government Treasury and are spared the troublesome task of collection from door to door. The transfer of the Sambalpur district to Bengal and the re-distribution of the Chhattisgarh division involved several changes of some importance in the Land Record establishment. The work and conduct

of the staff as a whole was satisfactory, but a decrease in the number of dismissals of Patwaris is thought to be due to the difficulty of obtaining satisfactory substitutes at the low rates of pay prevailing rather than to any signal improvement in the behaviour of this class.

Waste Lands.

9. The total area of waste land disforested and thrown open to ryotwari cultivation amounts to about 1,650 square miles. During the year under report an area of over 56,000 acres was allotted to cultivators in the Central Provinces and 33,000 acres were relinquished by them, while in Berar 40,000 acres were brought under cultivation in the waste lands of settled villages.

Court of Wards.

10. The transfer to Bengal of six Court of Wards estates in the Sambalpur district, and a continuation of the cautious policy of recent years in regard to the assumption and retention of hopelessly encumbered properties, led to a further decrease in the number of estates under management, which at the close of the year stood at 81. Rental collections were extremely good and forest income also generally increased in those estates where it is of any importance. A substantial proportion of the funds available was devoted to improvements, and sums amounting to over four lakhs, half of which represented savings from current income, were repaid to creditors. Relations with the estates' tenants were generally satisfactory.

Revenue-and-Rent-paying Classes.

11. The generally fair harvests of the preceding agricultural year had left the revenue-and rent-paying classes of these Provinces in good condition at the commencement of the period under report. A generally good kharif crop in the closing months of 1906 maintained this satisfactory state of affairs. Dues were paid by both classes with ease, and generally without coercion. There was nothing remarkable during the year in transactions relating to land: in a satisfactory proportion of the transfers which took place the transferees were of the cultivating class. Many indications point to the rapidly rising value of land in the more advanced parts of the Province, but this circumstance has not generally, as might have been supposed, led to friction between landlords and tenants, whose mutual relations are in most districts entirely satisfactory. The chief cause of complaint among these classes is simply the dearth and the dearness of labour, facts which are but the natural results of a rapid industrial expansion following upon the recent decimation of the labouring classes by plague and famine.

Police.

12. A slight increase was observable in the criminality of the year, but the crime of recent years has been so light that this circumstance is simply indicative of a natural swing of the pendulum towards more normal conditions. Murders, a class of crime over which the police have little preventive power, again increased in number, while a marked slackening of the activity of dacoits in Berar was accompanied by a larger number of robberies, a state of affairs which seems to show that while the activity of the police has made gang robbery a more perilous speculation than formerly, the prevalence of timid wayfarers with money or valuables on their persons still offers a temptation to individual desperadoes.

Detective work appears to be improving, and investigations are characterised by increasing intelligence and straightforwardness. But much remains to be done in Berar and Wardha, where the standard of work is noticeably lower than in the rest of the Province. The close control kept over vagrants and suspects is believed to have in some degree discouraged the growth of alien crime, to which the opening up of the country by new railways has afforded increased facilities.

Among the reforms introduced as a result of the Police Commission scheme, the most important measures carried out were the appointment of two Deputy Inspectors-General and a Railway Superintendent, the interesting, and so far successful, experiment of appointing Deputy Superintendents of Police, and an inauguration of the system of self-contained station-house circles. These new measures necessitated an increased cadre and increased expenditure, but the full scale sanctioned has not yet been attained. Recruiting in Berar and in the Maratha country of the Central Provinces continued to be a most difficult matter, and even the increased rates of pay proved an insufficient attraction. Discipline, excellent on the whole in the Central Provinces, was less satisfactory in Berar, where the ultimate sanction of a fear of dismissal is, owing to the attractions of other walks of life, very weak. The Saugor Training School was efficiently managed and did excellent work.

Criminal Justice.

13. Restrictions on the operation of the nuisance clauses of the Police Act and the power of compounding certain offences granted to Municipal authorities led to a large decline in the number of cases. Allowing for the action of these causes, there was really a slight increase of offences, but it was confined to petty cases and was but the reflection of a generally prosperous year. The Honorary Magistracy was still further strengthened, especially in Berar. The percentage of convictions fell, as a natural corollary of the decrease in petty nuisance cases. Appellate results pointed to satisfactory work on the part of the lower courts. The despatch of sessions cases improved, but the sessions divisions of the Central Provinces are too unwieldy for the really prompt administration of justice. A tendency was observed in Berar to bring cases of a civil nature into the criminal courts, and was obviously prompted by the general congestion of civil files in that division. There was an increased disposition on the part of the Magistracy to avoid petty sentences of imprisonment and sentences on juveniles, and the option of releasing first offenders on probation of good conduct was much more freely exercised. Eighteen sentences of death were carried into execution.

Prisons.

14. A further decrease in the average jail population may be assigned to the generally prosperous conditions of the year and in part also to more efficacious preventive action on the part of the police. The number of juvenile offenders admitted also decreased. The present means at the command of the Jail authorities do not allow of as complete segregation of habitual from casual offenders as might be wished, but close attention is being given to this important question, and it is trusted that a solution may be found by the concentration of habitual offenders into Central Jails. The general health of the prisoners was excellent, and there was a substantial decrease both in the death-rate and in the number of sick. The jails maintained their reputation as "little hygienic islets set in the midst of an ocean of insanitation," and provided an all but inviolate sanctuary from the epidemics of plague and cholera which raged during part of the year outside their walls. The statistics of punishment, which, owing to a greater insistence on the performance of full tasks, show a substantial rise in the number of penalties inflicted, at the same time testify, by the free resort to warnings and the decrease of whippings, that discipline has been tempered with mercy. Jail industries were apparently not so profitable this year, but this is explained to be mainly due to late debits and credits. The smaller jail population and higher food-prices much enhanced the cost of upkeep, and the net cost per prisoner rose by Rs. 20. The plan alluded to in last year's summary of reducing expenditure by converting certain District Jails into Subsidiary Jails was found to be likely to entail extra expenditure on police guards, and has been reserved for further consideration.

Civil Justice.

15. The cessation of debt conciliation proceedings led to a large decrease both in the number of institutions and in the value of suits in the Central Provinces. In Berar, on the other hand, institutions increased, mainly owing to the hope of speedier disposal encouraged by the reduction of heavy pending files. Special efforts were made to clear off long-pending cases, and were rewarded with fair success, but there is nevertheless a tendency to congestion, especially in Berar, which it is most difficult to combat. The pending file increased both in the Courts of Divisional Judges and in that of the Judicial Commissioner: this was merely the natural consequence of an ever-increasing volume of work. The separation of the Judicial from the Executive establishments in the District Courts, which took effect from the 1st October, has given much satisfaction. Some progress was made in the provision of Court buildings.

Registration.

16. Compulsory registrations affecting moveable property noticeably increased both in number and in the value of the property affected. There are no striking changes in the statistics for the sale of villages or shares of villages, but both sales and mortgages of these to non-agriculturists decreased. Owing to plague and the fear of plague, gifts *inter vivos* to some extent took the place of wills.

Municipal Administration.

17. The number of Municipalities in the Central Provinces and Berar remained the same as in the previous year, *viz.*, 58. The net income of the Municipalities of the Provinces increased by Rs. 82,459 and the expenditure increased by Rs. 1,22,074. The general balance at the close of the year was Rs. 10,78,618. The increase in the receipts was shared by almost all the Municipalities, but was most noticeable at Nagpur, where there was an increase of Rs. 46,344. This rise was due to increased receipts under octroi, water-rate and conservancy, consequent on better supervision and collection, and on the immunity of the town from plague during the year. In the year under report effect was given to the constitution of the town of Drug in the Chhattisgarh division as a "notified area," and since its close two more towns, *viz.*, Gondia and Betul, have been declared notified areas. During the year improvements were made in opening out streets in congested areas in the Nagpur Municipality. In this Municipality improved drainage and water-supply schemes are also under preparation. The financial position of the Municipalities was generally sound. The relations existing between Municipal Committees and the officers of Government continued to be satisfactory.

District Councils and Local Boards.

18. Owing to the redistribution of territory in the Chhattisgarh division and the formation of the Drug district, the number of Local Boards increased from 72 to 75 and of District Councils from 20 to to21 The income of these bodies increased by Rs. 1,42,936, due to larger contributions from Provincial Revenues and to the transfer of the Dâk Cess to the District Funds. The other variations in the receipts were slight. The expenditure increased by Rs. 1,70,777, mainly under the heads "Education" and "Civil Works." There were also increases under the heads "Pounds," "Hospitals and Dispensaries," and "Veterinary." The District Boards are fully alive to the importance of primary education. Everywhere large amounts were spent on the construction of school buildings and on improving the position and prospects of teachers. All local bodies closed the year in a solvent financial condition. The closing balance of the several Councils in the Central Provinces increased by Rs. 60,476 and that in Berar by Rs. 67,519. These savings are considerable; but the exclusion of the District Funds from the Imperial Accounts will remove certain restrictions on the

spending capacity of the Councils, and the strengthening of the local Public Works staff will enable the Councils to spend much larger amounts than in the past on Civil Works. On the whole the several Councils and Local Boards have performed their work in as satisfactory a manner as could be expected in existing conditions.

The Agricultural Department.

19. The Agricultural Department continued the career of active development inaugurated by the re-organization of the year 1905-06. The Agricultural School was raised to the status of a college, and, after a somewhat sparsely attended opening session, has begun to attract pupils freely from the southern portion of the Province. A new agricultural station was established at Akola in June 1906, and has already done useful work in popularising Saoner juar among Berar cultivators. Good progress was made with roads and buildings at other farms, and important experimental work was done in many directions. Seed distribution, which is now widely advertised by the increased circulation of the *Agricultural Gazette*, continued to engage the careful attention of the Department, and steps are being taken to improve the strain of the cotton-seed available for distribution year by year. The demand for agricultural machinery exceeded the Department's capacity of supply. Demonstrations of improved methods of cultivation continued, and it is an encouraging sign of the impression which is produced by persistence in such demonstrations that the process of pickling juar seed by sulphate of copper has now become such a regular practice in the Nimar district that further demonstration of it was deemed unnecessary.

Co-operative credit made remarkable progress during the year under report. At the commencement of the year there were only one Urban and eight Rural Societies in this Province. By the 30th June 1907, one Central, 5 Urban and 55 Rural Societies had been registered, with a total capital of Rs. 62,000. Most of these societies are hardly co-operative in the true sense, but in Jubbulpore and Balaghat a fairly democratic type of society has been organised, and the development of genuine co-operation can only be a question of time. The existing societies worked on the whole both soundly and harmoniously, and repayments of loans were made regularly.

The veterinary work of the year was disappointing. Both the quality and the number of the veterinary staff are unsatisfactory. Inoculation of cattle against cattle disease made but little progress, although cattle disease was widespread. Improvements were however, made in the system of reporting outbreaks of disease, and good work was done in the distribution of stud bulls.

Weather and Crops.

20. Themonsoon broke in good time and there was an ample and well-distributed rainfall throughout its normal duration. The rainfall was favourable to rice, but somewhat too heavy for cotton. Light showers received in November made the conditions favourable for the sowing of the spring crops, which did well until February, when they were for a time imprilled by heavy and continuous rain and in parts by hail-storms. Fine weather, however, ensued and averted the danger, and the damage was confined to a few scattered villages which had suffered from severe hail-storms. The total rainfall of the year was $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches above the average of recorded years in the Central Provinces, and 12 inches above the average in Berar. Of the autumn crops, rice fared best, and the outturn amounted to a full crop in almost all the rice districts, and in Raipur to a bumper crop. Juar and cotton both suffered to some extent from excessive moisture, and the area under cotton in the Central Provinces declined by almost

one-fifth. Large kharif areas were damaged by the excessive rain, but fortunately the fields, refreshed by rains in November, retained sufficient moisture to enable extensive areas to be ploughed up and sown with spring crops, so that the decrease in the kharif area was counterbalanced by an increase in that of the rabi crop. Of the spring crops, wheat fared well in the Central Provinces, particularly in Chhattisgarh, but gram and linseed suffered from the wet weather of February 1907.

Forests.

21. The area of the State forests was reduced by 130 square miles and now amounts to 22,002 square miles. The decrease was mainly due to recalculations by the Forest Survey in the Mandla division. Survey operations were continued in Berar, and about 133 miles of forest boundaries in the Berar circle were surveyed on a 4-inch scale. No new working-plans were sanctioned during the year, but plans were drawn up for the Saugor forests and for the Motinala range in the Mandla division. The expenditure on the construction and repair of forest roads greatly exceeded that of the previous year. The season as a whole was favourable to fire-protection, and the efforts of the Forest Department to secure efficient protection were more successful than in previous years. Good as were the financial results of 1905-06, those for 1906-07 were better, the net surplus being over 11 lakhs, or 13 per cent over that of the previous year. A demand has arisen for *saj* and *halda* in South Chanda for export to Madras. The Forest School at Balaghat was opened on the 1st April 1907 and promises to be a great success.

Mines and Quarries.

22. Owing to the closing down of the Warora colliery in consequence of a serious subsidence, there was a marked decrease in the provincial output of coal. The new mine at Ballarpur is still in its infancy, and although the Mohpani mine has taken on a fresh lease of life under new management and the Chandameta colliery also shows an increased output, these factors are not as yet powerful enough to make up the leeway lost by the cessation of the output from Warora. The only other mining industries of importance in this Province are concerned with manganese and limestone. A sharp rise in prices called forth increased activity in the output of manganese, which was only limited by shortage of rolling-stock and other difficulties or expenses of transport. The total output of the year exceeded 320,000 tons. The output of limestone, on the other hand, fell by nearly a half, mainly owing to the competition of a more readily accessible deposit at Sutna in the Rewah State. The outturn of coal during the year is probably the lowest, and of manganese the highest, that will be seen for some time to come, as, on the one hand, existing collieries are now being actively developed, and, on the other, the inflated prices of manganese have subsequently to the close of the year experienced a sharp fall, owing chiefly to renewed activity in the Caucasus.

Manufactures.

23. Nine new factories were opened during the year, seven of them being cotton gins and presses, which, as usual, constitute over 90 per cent of the factories existing in the Province. The health of the operatives and the general sanitary conditions of the factories appear to be satisfactory. Accidents increased in number, but were in all cases due to the carelessness of the workers, and were not unduly numerous in view of the notorious ignorance and thoughtlessness of the average factory hand. The wages of unskilled labour averaged slightly higher than in the previous year, while those of skilled labour continued to rise almost everywhere. As usual, the local supply of skilled labour was hopelessly inadequate.

Prices and Trade.

24. Although the better conditions prevailing in Northern India led to a considerable decrease in the export of food-grains, the prices of agricultural produce, with the exception of cotton, which remained steady, continued to rise. The total volume of trade decreased by five million maunds in weight and by three and a half crores in value. Part of the decrease is due to the exclusion of Sambalpur for the first time from the returns, but there was also a real slackening of the export trade, consequent on rather less favourable crops. This was more especially the case with cotton, the exports of which declined in value by two and a quarter crores. There was a heavy export of manganese. Imports increased slightly. The most noticeable rise was in coal and coke, and was due to industrial activity on the one hand and to the closing of the Warora colliery on the other. The total imports amounted roughly to seventeen million maunds, valued at nine and three-quarter crores of rupees, and the total exports to thirty and a third million maunds, valued at sixteen and a third crores of rupees.

Public Works.

25. The re-organization of various departments and the formation of the new district of Drug necessitated a very heavy programme of construction, and out of a total expenditure on provincial works of 48¾ lakhs almost a half was devoted to original building works. Unfortunately this outburst of activity coincides with a sharp upward rise all over the Provinces in the cost both of materials and of labour, and also with a great dearth of the latter. Good progress has, however, been made, as indeed the figures of expenditure alone are enough to show. The inauguration of the station-house system in Raipur and Drug necessitated the construction of a large number of police buildings of all kinds in these districts. Excise reforms similarly involved the erection of several bonded ware-houses. The separation of the Judicial and the Executive establishments in District Courts created an urgent demand for accommodation, which the progress made during the year did much to satisfy. At Drug, buildings had to be provided for every branch of the administration, quarters had to be provided for various officials, and it was further necessary to open up many new roads to connect the head-quarters of the new tahsils and to give a more ready outlet to the produce of the district. The rapid growth of Nagpur has also thrown a great deal of work on the Department, both in the provision of accommodation and in the construction of new connecting links in the civil station. The largest individual work in hand during the year was the new Secretariat building at Nagpur, on which an additional sum of one and three-quarter lakhs was spent. On original communications more than eight lakhs were expended, especial attention being given to the vast and hitherto almost roadless region of the Chanda Zamindaris, and also, as noted above, to the new district of Drug. Over 11½ lakhs were expended in the upkeep of existing roads.

Irrigation.

26. The generally plentiful rainfall of the year led to a decrease in the area under irrigation in the Central Provinces, but in Berar, where irrigation is mostly confined to garden crops, there was a small increase. Less than 5,000 acres were irrigated from State tanks, but important progress was made in familiarising the people with the irrigation policy of Government, and there is every indication that they are awaking to the value of irrigation and will resort freely to it when they have conquered their usual doubts and suspicions. Altogether, nearly 14 lakhs were expended on State irrigation works. The large Khairbandha tank was completed at a cost of 2¾ lakhs, and a commencement was made on the Ramtek Reservoir, which is estimated to cost 13 lakhs. There were in all 184 works

of all kinds under construction, and 113 projects were under investigation or revision. Great attention was paid to the collection of hydrological statistics, especially in connection with the important Mahanadi canal project, which is shortly to be re-submitted to the Government of India. In the Nagpur division work was, as in all departments, much obstructed by the scarcity of labour.

Revenue and Finance.

27. The gross Imperial and Provincial Revenue of the year amounted to 334 lakhs as compared with 319½ lakhs in 1905-06, and the gross expenditure to 229 lakhs as compared with about 209 lakhs. The transactions relating to Berar, which were formerly shown under the head "Imperial" were this year for the first time shown under the head Provincial, and the receipts from Excise, which in previous years were credited in the proportion of three and one between Imperial and Provincial Revenues respectively, were this year divided in equal shares between the two. Land revenue receipts rose by about two lakhs: opium receipts increased by about 1⅔ lakhs owing to the introduction of Ghazipur opium in Berar: excise receipts rose from 72 lakhs to 83¼ lakhs owing to the extension of the contract supply system and to keen competition at auctions. The provincial share of the excise receipts increased by over 31 lakhs. There was a falling-off of the stamp revenue by about a lakh, which was the result of plague in certain districts. On the expenditure side, the cost of the Police Department rose from 17 to nearly 26 lakhs, and of the Excise Department from 1½ to nearly 2½ lakhs, in each case owing to reorganization. The expenditure on *Law and Justice—Courts of Law* rose from 13 to 20¼ lakhs: this was due to changes in the system of debiting the pay of certain officials, and to the separation of the Judicial and Executive establishments in District offices. Educational expenditure increased from 6 to nearly 9 lakhs, and the busy building and road operations of the year accounted for a rise in the expenditure on Civil Works from 37½ to 52½ lakhs. Local Fund receipts amounted to 25⅔ lakhs in the case of Incorporated and 7⅔ lakhs in the case of Excluded Funds, and the expenditure to 14⅔ and 2⅓ lakhs respectively. Municipal revenue rose from 18½ to 20 lakhs, and Municipal expenditure from 18 to 18½ lakhs.

Vital Statistics.

28. The year was far from a healthy one, and there were epidemics of plague, cholera and small-pox in various parts of the Province. The death-rate reached the high figure of 43 *per mille*. The severe outbreak of cholera was traced to the Kumbh Mela at Allahabad and to the Pandharpur Fair in Bombay, and was worst in Berar. Plague accounted for 18,000 deaths and cholera for 39,000. In spite of the heavy mortality, the population of the Province continues to grow, as the birth-rate is extremely high. This year it was nearly 52 *per mille*, and a further favourable factor was a decrease, though but a slight one, in infant mortality. The rural birth-rate is as usual appreciably higher than the urban.

Emigration.

29. Emigration was insignificant during the year. The high wages obtainable locally owing to a prosperous year and industrial developments completely cut the ground from under the feet of the recruiters, and the results achieved by them were absurdly small. There seems little prospect of success for recruitment in the future in these Provinces, except during periods of temporary distress.

Medical Relief.

30. The number of dispensaries increased from 235 to 256, while the number of patients treated at them rose to about 1,672,000. Private dispensaries continued to do valuable work. Income increased, and subscriptions came in

with more freedom. The population of the lunatic asylums was slightly lower than in the previous year. There was a somewhat heavy mortality from unavoidable causes at the Nagpur asylum. Extensions were made to this asylum, in order to provide accommodation for all the female lunatics of the Province.

Sanitation.

31. Seoni, Nagpur, and Akola spent substantial sums on their water-supply. Several of the larger municipalities of the Province are drawing up drainage schemes on a large scale, but work has not yet actually been taken in hand. A large proportion of municipal incomes was devoted to the improvement of water-supply and drainage, but some Committees have been hampered by the expense of measures for the prevention of plague. Anti-malarial campaigns on a modest scale were commenced in a few towns, but have not advanced sufficiently far to allow of a criticism of their results. Rural sanitation makes somewhat slow progress owing to paucity of funds, but a good deal was done to improve the water-supply, and the cumulative effect of these unambitious operations when spread over a long term of years is far from inconsiderable. The reconstitution of the Sanitary Board on a more practical basis is contemplated.

Vaccination.

32. There was a slight decline in the number of vaccinations performed during the year, but nearly 99 per cent of those performed were successful. The mortality from small-pox was again high, and special efforts were made to re-vaccinate as many persons as possible in view of the severity of the epidemic. Vaccination work was much interfered with by the prevalence of plague.

Education.

33. There was a considerable increase in the number of primary schools for boys in the Feudatory States and for girls in the khalsa, while there was a general rise in the number of scholars attending all classes of schools. In spite of plague and famine, education has made great strides during the past few years: the staff of Inspectors has been largely increased: girls' schools have been provincialised and popularised by the increased numbers of female teachers, and the appointment of an Inspectress of Schools: secondary education has spread, and greater facilities have been provided for technical education, while there has been a great and progressive increase in the number of children attending primary schools. One of the chief difficulties at present retarding progress is the dearth of trained teachers, for which the poor prospects offered to the teaching profession are largely responsible. Another unsatisfactory feature is the recent growth of a tendency to insubordination among the more advanced students, who have in some cases been led astray by political agitators, but it is hoped that such ebullitions are of a purely temporary character. An interesting attempt was made at Nagpur during the year under report to arouse popular interest in the establishment of a school of handicrafts, but the experiment did not evoke a cordial response.

PART II.

CHAPTER I.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

At pages 1 to 52 of the Report on the administration of the Central Provinces for 1901-02 and at pages 1 to 25 of the Report on the administration of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts for the same year will be found an account of the following subjects drawn up for standard reference. Certain portions of the information given are rendered obsolete owing to the transfer of the major portion of the Sambalpur district and the Feudatory States of Patna, Sonpur, Rehrakhol, Kalahandi and Bamra from the Central Provinces to Lower Bengal and the transfer of the Chhota Nagpur States—Sirguja, Udaipur, Jashpur, Korea and Changbhakar—from Lower Bengal to the Central Provinces with effect from the 16th October 1905, and by the division of the Raipur, Bilaspur and remainder of the Sambalpur district into three districts on the formation of the Drug district on 1st January 1906.

1.—PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY, AREA, CLIMATE, &c.

2.—HISTORICAL SUMMARY.

3.—FORM OF ADMINISTRATION.

[For an account of the "Form of Administration" in Berar, see paragraph 2 of Part II of the Administration Report of the Central Provinces for 1903-04.]

4.—CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES.

5.—SYSTEM OF SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT.

6.—CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY.

DETAILS OF CHHATTISGARH DIVISION.

Division.	Districts.	Tahsils.	Area and population of tahsils.
Chhattisgarh—area 21,240 square miles, population 2,642,983.	Raipur—area 9,831 square miles, population 994,723.	Raipur ...	Area 1,016 square miles. Population 246,514.
		Mahasamund ...	Area 5,284 square miles. Population 295,940.
		Baloda Bazar ...	Area 1,933 square miles. Population 264,063.
		Dhamtari ...	Area 1,598 square miles. Population 188,206.
	Bilaspur—area 7,602 square miles, population 917,240.	Bilaspur ...	Area 3,111 square miles. Population 321,915.
		Mungeli ..	Area 1,452 square miles. Population 177,116.
		Janjgir ...	Area 3,039 square miles. Population 418,209.
	Drug—area 3,807 square miles, population 628,885.	Drug ...	Area 924 square miles. Population 189,643.
		Bemetara ...	Area 1,566 square miles. Population 240,843.
		Sanjari ...	Area 1,317 square miles. Population 198,399.

7.—DETAILS OF THE LAST CENSUS—TRIBES AND LANGUAGES.

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

8.—CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

2. The Hon'ble Mr. J. O. Miller, C. S. I., I. C. S., held charge of the office of Chief Commissioner from the commencement of the year to the 20th July 1906 and again from the 22nd October 1906 to the 4th March 1907, when he was appointed to be an Ordinary Member of the Council of the Governor-General of India, the Hon'ble Mr. R. H. Craddock, C. S. I., I. C. S., being appointed in his place. From the 21st July to the 21st October 1906, the Hon'ble Mr. S. Ismay, C. S. I., I. C. S., officiated as Chief Commissioner, while the Hon'ble Mr. Miller was on privilege leave. The Hon'ble Mr. F. A. T. Phillips, I. C. S., was Chief Commissioner, sub. *pro tem.*, from the 5th to the 24th March 1907, when he was relieved by the permanent incumbent, the Hon'ble Mr. R. H. Craddock, C. S. I., I. C. S., who held charge during the rest of the year under report.

RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES.

9.—RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES.

[Report on the administration of the Feudatory States of the Central Provinces for the year 1906.]

Changes in the Administration.

3. The history of the year was one of uneventful but steady progress and prosperity. The States transferred from Bengal in the preceding year naturally came in for a special share of attention, and a feeling of solidarity was fostered by the participation of the Chiefs in the Divisional Darbar held by Mr. Miller at Raipur in January 1906. Both the Chiefs and the people of the new States have accepted the new *régime* contentedly. There was no change in the form of administration of any of the States: nine were under their own Chiefs and six remained under management. The restrictions placed on the powers of the Kanker Chief at his installation in 1903 were withdrawn, and he now enjoys full powers. The young Chiefs of Bastar and Kawardha were given training in the practical administration of their States under the guidance of their respective Diwans.

Rainfall and Crops.

4. The monsoon conditions of 1906 were on the whole favourable, though in parts the rain was scarcely sufficient for thinning operations. The full area was, however, sown, and there was a slight increase in the area under cultivation. In most of the States the rice crop gave an average outturn, rising in places to a bumper harvest. Kodo was as a rule remarkably good, but cotton was rather disappointing. Rabi crops did fairly well.

Trade and Prices.

5. There was a brisk export trade, which had the result of counteracting the cheapening effect of good harvests, so that prices were normal with a tendency to be high, though not so high as to incommode the labouring classes. The cotton mill at Nandgaon did well in 1906, but the outbreak of plague in 1907 caused heavy loss. The mill is being greatly extended, and will soon recover from this temporary check. A ginning press was started at Kawardha, and it is proposed to open a mill at Raigarh.

Condition of the people.

6. There was a general and steady improvement in the material prosperity of the people. The expansion of the income from excise which occurred in all the States is a safe index of this. Favourable rains ensured adequate employment for agricultural labourers, and trade was, as noted above, brisk. The wants of the jungly people, who form so large a proportion of the population of the States, are simple and easily satisfied, while the cultivators, whose standard of comfort is somewhat higher, enjoy as a rule a very light assessment. There was very little emigration to Assam. The year was on the whole a healthy one, though the number of deaths reported was in excess of the previous year's figures. There were slight outbreaks of cholera in Khairagarh and in Chhuikhadan, and there was also an epidemic of plague in Nandgaon, which was, however, quickly stamped out. Cattle-disease was rife in some of the States, but on the whole agricultural stock was sufficient.

Finance.

7. All the States under management are free from debt, and it appears that those under the control of their own Chiefs are also in the same case. The aggregate income of all the States rose by about Rs. 32,000, the expansion of receipts under excise being responsible for this. Government securities to the value of $5\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs are now held by the Chiefs as compared with $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs last year.

The practice of framing a budget estimate in order to control the expenditure has not yet been introduced into the Chota Nagpur States, but the Chiefs have expressed their willingness to adopt it.

Land Revenue.

8. Land revenue came in readily in all the States, and there was no resort to coercive processes. In the States transferred from Bengal the land revenue accounts are not very reliable, they are complicated by the inclusion of miscellaneous demands, and the uncertainty surrounding the demand has been found to lead to abuses.

Settlement.

9. Summary settlements were carried out in Khairagarh, Raigarh and Sakti. The enhancements were in all cases most moderate, and were accepted without complaint. Revision of settlement was undertaken in Nandgaon, but was hampered by plague. The introduction of a regular system of assessment is an imperative want of the new States. This fact is recognised by Chiefs, gaontias and people alike, and a beginning has been made in Udaipur, where five villages were selected for survey with a view to settlement.

Law, Crime and Justice.

10. Crime was as usual very light, and there was a complete absence of organized or professional enterprise. Reporting in the new States was found to be remarkably full, a feature which is attributed to the system of reporting through village chaukidars. Action was taken during the year to give the Chiefs of the new States increased powers in the disposal of criminal work, such as the Chiefs of the Chhattisgarh States possess already. There was a slight decrease in civil institutions, and the great bulk of the civil work was of an extremely petty character. In the new States, the practical decision of the case rests entirely with muharrirs, the presiding officers merely initialling the depositions and decisions. This feature will, however, disappear with the more extended use of paid agency. On the whole, justice, both civil and criminal, is administered with reasonable promptitude.

Jails.

11. The average daily population of the jails was somewhat lower than usual. Jail life in the Feudatory States has in the past not infrequently been somewhat of a farce: there has been little discipline and no sustained exaction of tasks; and, save for being fettered, the prisoners have often been left much to their own devices. Efforts are being made to remedy these defects, but even now incidents sometimes occur which exhibit striking departures from the accepted canons of prison discipline. Several Chiefs are, however, awaking to the desirability of infusing a more businesslike spirit into the administration of their jails, and the Sirguja Chief, who has applied for the loan of the services of a Khalsa jail official to put his jail on a sound footing, and who has introduced a fly-shuttle loom and prescribed a simple mark system, deserves special notice. In Kawardha jail, where discipline was particularly poor, an accused person in a bad murder case was allowed to escape through the sheer carelessness and incompetence of the jail officials.

Forests.

12. Owing chiefly to the smaller export of myrabolams from Kanker consequent on a dull market, forest revenue decreased by Rs. 15,000. The proposal for the appointment of an Agency Forest Officer which was referred to in last year's report has met with a cold reception from the new States, and has consequently fallen through to a considerable extent. Good progress was made in the formation of forest reserves in Bastar. The tasar-silk industry flourishes in Raigarh, and the Chief proposes to encourage it by the grant of advances and rewards and the establishment of a State nursery.

Excise.

13. Excise income increased by Rs. 72,000, or about 30 per cent. The increase was distributed over all the States, and was accompanied by a satisfactory reduction in the number of liquor shops from 1,841 to 1,556. The policy of reduction will be continued where necessary. The income from opium and ganja remained steady.

Education.

14 Education continued to make steady progress in the States, and several new schools were started. The percentage of children attending schools compares favourably with the figures of the Khalsa area of the Provinces, and many

RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES.

of the Chiefs evince considerable interest in educational matters. Good physical training is provided, and care is taken not to alienate the people by bringing pressure to bear on parents to send their children to schools situated at a distance from their homes.

Rajkumar College.

15. The Rajkumar College made satisfactory progress during the year. The health of the boys has been good, and the tone and discipline of the College is excellent. A new religious manual was brought into use, and the religious instruction now systematically given is reported to have had an important influence on the tone of the school, more especially in encouraging in the boys that polished courtesy of manner which has always distinguished the best of their ancestors. The correspondence regarding the recognition of the diploma of the College by the Universities as equivalent to their Matriculation certificate has not as yet been brought to a conclusion. The new messing quarters were completed during the year and will serve a useful purpose in giving the boys a taste for pleasant surroundings.

Public Works.

16. The total expenditure of all States on public works was Rs. 2,26,794, exclusive of establishment charges. Out of this total, work to the extent of Rs. 1,30,000 was carried out by the Executive Engineer, Chhattisgarh States Division, whose services were only utilised by the six States under management. The Chiefs who administer their own States are no longer willing to put their public works under him on account of the high establishment charges and the difficulty in getting the work done, and it is a matter for consideration whether the retention of the post is justifiable. In Kanker the principal works on which expenditure was incurred were a bridge over the Dudh river and the construction of a guest-house. In Raigarh and Jagdalpur the building of palaces was continued. Excellent progress was made with the construction of a surface road from Antagarh to Kondagaon.

Berar.

17. There are no Feudatory States in Berar.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

10.—CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

The season.

18. A year of good rainfall and very fair harvests followed upon the favourable season of 1905-06. A full account of the course of the monsoon and estimates of the outturn of the principal crops will be found in Section 2 of Chapter IV below. There was a slight decline in the area under kharif crops, and a marked fall of 18 per cent in the area under cotton in the Central Provinces: owing to excessive rainfall, the outturn of cotton was only three-fourths of the average yield. Rabi cultivation on the other hand increased substantially by 11 per cent in the Central Provinces and by 5 per cent in Berar, and the wheat crops fared particularly well in Chhattisgarh. Thanks to a fair rabi harvest and a good rice crop the percentage on a normal yield of the produce of the Provinces as a whole during the year stood at 92 as against 84 per cent in the preceding year. The actual figures for the Central Provinces were 106, but for Berar the average outturn was only 70 per cent of a normal yield. Although cattle-disease prevailed in a more or less sporadic form, the number of agricultural stock increased and their condition was on the whole good. Labour was much in demand and wages ruled high. The year was thus one of sustained and general prosperity.

Trade.

19. The trade of the year is reviewed in Section 7 of Chapter IV below. The outstanding feature of the returns for the year was a decline of 15 per cent in exports, which was partly due to the transfer of Sambalpur to Bengal, but was also in some degree the result of less favourable crops in the calendar year 1906. The important export crops of oil-seeds and cotton were well below normal, and the fall in the cotton export trade alone amounted to over two crores in value. Exports of manganese continued to increase, but this was the only head under which a marked increase was observable. The export of food-grains, with the exception of rice, showed a considerable decline. On the side of imports, coal, oil, sugar and tea showed increases, and the bulk of imports increased by 3 per cent. The total volume of trade was less by 5 million maunds than that of 1905-06, and the total value also declined by 3½ crores.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Plague.

20. Plague worked considerable havoc in Nagpur in the earlier part of the year. The Berar districts and Jubbulpore, Bhandara and Seoni also suffered to some extent at a later period. The death roll from plague in the calendar year 1906 was about 18,000. The agricultural population as a whole enjoyed comparative immunity as compared with dwellers in towns.

Summary.

21. The year was a favourable one as regards material prosperity. It was however far from being a healthy one, and both epidemic and non-epidemic mortality increased. The birth-rate remained at a high level, particularly in rural districts. The criminality of the province continued to be extremely small. There was a strong and sustained demand for labour, skilled and unskilled, and wages reached a level which more than counterbalanced the general sharp rise in the price of living.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

1.—REALISATION OF REVENUE.

REALISATION OF REVENUE.

[Resolution on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces for the year the en ling 30th September 1906, paragraph 8 and following, and of Berar for the year 1905-06, paragraph 3 and following.]

The Central Provinces.

22. There was an increase in the land revenue demand of some of the districts in the Central Provinces owing to revision of assessment and the discontinuation of abatements in villages which had recovered from deterioration, but the transfer of the greater part of Sambalpur to Bengal brought about a material reduction in the total land revenue on the roll, which fell from Rs. 85,52,804 to Rs. 84,52,932 at the close of the year. Collections of the net demand of land revenue on the roll, that is, the demand excluding suspensions and advance collections, were very good. At the beginning of the year there was an arrear balance of more than Rs. 2,15,000. Of this sum Rs. 13,000 were remitted and Rs. 1,13,000, of which nearly a lakh was due in Saugor, remained under suspension. During the year suspensions were granted to the extent of Rs. 1,87,000, of which Rs. 1,29,000 were suspended in Bilaspur on account of a failure of the rice crop. The net demand, on both current and arrear account, was collected practically in full; in fact, only Rs. 521 remained uncollected. In 15 districts, including the whole of Nerbudda and Jubbulpore divisions, the net demand was collected absolutely in full.

Berar.

23. The total demand in Berar amounted to Rs. 87,76,960, showing an increase of Rs. 38,686 over the figure for 1904-05. The whole of this amount was collected except Rs. 478, which were reported to be in train of liquidation. The arrear account is quite clear. The balance from previous years amounted to Rs. 772, of which Rs 685 were realized, Rs. 71 were remitted and the balance struck off as irrecoverable.

Coercive process.

24. The year under review shows a marked decline in the number of coercive processes issued for the collection of revenue. In the Central Provinces the number of warrants of arrest fell from 263 to 172, and only two defaulters were committed to jail. Similarly, the number of attachments ordered fell from 4,724 to 3,726, and of those effected from 769 to 452. In only 20 cases was it necessary to order sale of the property attached, as compared with 47 in the previous year. In Berar these measures were resorted to in a far less degree. Notices of demand fell by 47 per cent, and though the number of attachments of personal property ordered was 1,520, the number actually effected was only 19 as compared with 69 in the preceding year. No defaulter had to be sent to jail and only one field was sold for arrears of former years.

Government loans.

25. The Government Loan Account (principal) is shown in thousands of rupees in the following statement. The figures are for the financial year ending the 31st March 1907:—

	Under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.		Under the Land Improvement Loans Act.	
	With interest.	Without interest.	With interest.	Without interest.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Outstanding at the commencement of the year, *i. e.*, on 1st April 1906	334	48	536	..
Remitted during the year 1906-07	2	2	1	...
Collected do. ...	470	28	122	...
Advanced do. ...	367	...	124	...
Outstanding at the close of the year, *i. e.*, on 31st March 1907.	229	18	537	...

REALISATION OF REVENUE.

Of the advances made under the Agriculturists' Loans Act Rs. 1,17,000 were given out in Saugor and Damoh to aid the people to recover from the disastrous effects of the previous year's frost and over a lakh in the Bilaspur district, where the failure of the rice crop was most marked. Large amounts were also given out in the rice districts of Chanda, Bhandara and Balaghat. Loans for land improvement were largest in Bhandara, Bilaspur, Saugor and Damoh. Collections were very good throughout the Province owing to a good kharif harvest, and the sums written off as irrecoverable were insignificant. The amount outstanding on account of famine loans without interest was reduced by over half a lakh and now stands at Rs 1,61,000. In Berar the advances continue to be comparatively small, for the reason that in ordinary seasons the necessity for loans is less felt there than elsewhere, the credit of the cultivators being such as to enable them to raise small loans for seed and cattle without much difficulty.

2.—SURVEYS.

SURVEYS.

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1906.]

26. The traverse survey of 86 square miles was performed by the Imperial Survey Department, mostly in the Nimar district. The supplementary topographical survey of 607 square miles in the Narsinghpur district was also completed by the Department.

Twenty villages in the Balaghat district comprising an area of 30 square miles, which had been originally badly surveyed, were re-surveyed by the agency of the Land Record staff, and the original survey maps for 111 other villages were thoroughly checked and corrected. In Seoni, 19 villages or parts of villages were entirely re-surveyed, while the maps in 729 other villages comprising 1,227 square miles were brought up to date. It was also found necessary to re-survey 21 villages comprising 24 square miles in connection with the Raipur Settlement, and a smaller area in the Bilaspur Zamindaris which were also under settlement.

In Berar a small survey party was employed to complete the division and classification of certain land disforested in the old Basim district. An area of some 17 square miles was measured and classified.

3.—SETTLEMENT.

SETTLEMENT.

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1906.]

27. The orders of the Government of India on the final settlement reports of Hoshangabad and the Zamindari estates in the Raipur district were received during the year. The review on the final settlement report of the Drug district was submitted. Proposals were also submitted for the inception of settlement operations in Jubbulpore and Seoni The period of settlement in the Damoh district expired on the 30th June 1906, but it was found necessary to postpone settlement till after the following field season. Besides work in a few scattered ryotwari villages in various districts, the following settlement operations were undertaken during the year:—

Sambalpur (*Khalsa*).—Although the bulk of the Sambalpur district was transferred to Bengal in 1905, the proceedings of the settlement staff remained under the direction of the Settlement Commissioner of this Province. The revised assessment of the remainder of the Khalsa (339 villages comprising 516 square miles) was announced, but the assessment of the Chandarpur-Padampur estate was not sanctioned till after the close of the year. The total cost of the operations during the year was Rs. 29,340, and the cost of the Settlement up to the end of the year was about two and one-third lakhs.

Chanda (*Khalsa*).—The revised revenue of 59 and the revised rents and revenue of 761 Khalsa villages were announced during the year. The re-settlement of the Khalsa portion of the district was thus completed except for

46 villages, where a marked change of assets since announcement has led to proposals for revision. The cost of the year's operations was about Rs. 29,500.

Mandla.—498 villages were attested, and the Settlement Officer completed the inspection of 457 others. The preliminary report on the Dindori tahsil was also submitted. Besides the rent-rate reports for 265 villages already submitted but detained pending further orders from the Government of India, rent-rate reports were submitted for 104 villages. Work was much hindered by cholera and by inquiries into damages caused to the crops by frost and hail. The expenditure of the year was about Rs. 45,400.

Raipur.—378 villages were attested, and 571 villages were inspected. This completed the attestation and inspection of the Dhamtari tahsil, for which also the ryotwari abstracts were finished. Rent-rate reports, which were somewhat delayed by the formation of the new Drug district, were submitted for 354 mahals, as also was the preliminary report on the Dhamtari tahsil. The total expenditure of the year was over Rs. 56,000.

Bilaspur (Khalsa).—The outturn of attestation work was small, owing to the necessity of correcting mistakes made in the attestation work of the preceding year. 237 villages were attested, and 437 inspected. Office work was somewhat delayed by the withdrawal of patwaris under apprehension of a failure of the rice crop. The preliminary report on the Mungeli tahsil was submitted. The expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 45,600.

Sambalpur (Zamindaris).—Announcement of rents was completed in all the Zamindaris except Phuljhar, and the takolis of all the Zamindaris transferred to Bengal were also announced. Assessment reports were submitted for three Zamindaris.

Chanda (Zamindaris).—Kamil-jamas were announced in 317 villages, and the revised takolis of all the Zamindaris were announced. The settlement of the Zamindaris was thus completed.

Bilaspur (Zamindaris).—An independent Settlement Officer was appointed early in 1906 to carry out the settlement of the Bilaspur Zamindaris. The Kanteli Zamindari was attested and inspected, and attestation was commenced in two other Zamindaris. 216 villages in all were attested, and 144 were inspected. Preliminary reports were submitted for three Zamindaris. The expenditure of the year was nearly Rs 24,000.

Chanda (Ryotwari).—The settlement of the ryotwari villages of the Chanda district was virtually completed during the year.

LAND RECORDS.—4.—LAND RECORDS.

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1906.]

Establishment. 28. By far the most important event of the year was the abolition of the Patwari Cess and the consequent payment from Provincial Revenues of the entire Land Record staff. The Patwari Fund consequently ceased to exist, and with its abolition the patwaris have become ordinary Government servants. The abolition of the cess has given some relief to the people, and the patwaris have generally welcomed a change which substitutes the certainty of a fixed income regularly paid from the treasury for one which, being partly collected from tenants by the patwaris themselves, was liable to considerable fluctuations and difficult to realize. There were various important changes in the Land Record establishment. The transfer to Bengal of the bulk of the Sambalpur district and the re-distribution into three districts of the portion of Chhattisgarh which remains to this Province caused a number of exchanges of staff between the Chhattisgarh districts. In addition to various changes in the boundaries of Revenue Inspectors' and Patwaris' circles, this re-distribution led to the formation of one more Revenue Inspector's circle in Bilaspur and of four in Raipur Outside Chhattisgarh no changes of any great importance were effected. In Chanda, the revision of the patwari halkabandi of the whole district except the lower taluq of Sironcha involved the addition of one Assistant Superintendent of Land Records, one Revenue Inspector, 32 patwaris and one draughtsman to the Land Record staff.

29. Village boundary marks were generally well looked after, but experiments are being made in two districts with the object of securing a more accurate record of the upkeep of traverse survey marks. The condition of boundary marks of survey numbers in ryotwari villages is generally sufficiently good, except in the few ryotwari villages of Chhattisgarh. **Boundary marks.**

30. The circle note-books have been written up to 1904-05 in all but three districts in the Central Provinces: in the three excepted districts changes in the halkabandi have made a thorough revision necessary. A detailed check of these records has been carried out in almost all districts by Assistant Superintendents of Land Records, and it is hoped that they are now in a fairly accurate condition. The village note-books are generally up to date in all villages. Circle note-books and price registers have often in the past been written up inaccurately by kanungos, but a vernacular Land Record Manual is under preparation, which, it is hoped, will improve their work in this respect. **Utilization of Land Records.**

31. In the checking of land records, Revenue Inspectors, Superintendents and their Assistants showed a satisfactory outturn of work in point of quantity, but they exhibited a tendency to neglect other village records in order to secure a high percentage of khasra checking. The check by Tahsildars and their Naibs is sometimes superficial, but an improvement is expected in this branch of their work, now that their authority over the Land Record staff in their tahsils has been emphasized. Checking by Deputy Commissioners and their Assistants was somewhat neglected The percentage of inaccuracies discovered again fell from 1·47 to 1·17. The condition of village maps showed improvement and is receiving particular attention. **Testing of Land Records.**

32. The number of patwaris who had official permission to reside outside their circles increased slightly during the year. There are about 300 patwaris who live outside their circles without permission, and the remuneration of the incumbents is not sufficiently high to permit of the enforcement of the rule of residence in every case. The number of punishments inflicted upon patwaris showed an increase under all heads other than dismissal. The rarity of dismissals is probably simply due to the difficulty of securing competent successors to dismissed patwaris at the prevailing rates of pay. In districts where the manganese industry is being developed patwaris are suspected of having taken the opportunity to sell copies of village records and maps at high prices. There was a slight increase in the punishments inflicted on Revenue Inspectors, but the work of the Inspectors as a class was thoroughly satisfactory. One Superintendent of Land Records had to be reduced during the year, but Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents worked well on the whole. **Conduct of the Land Record Staff.**

5.– WASTE LANDS. WASTE LANDS.

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1906.]

33. The area of waste lands available for allotment on the ryotwari principle is only of importance in six districts of the Central Provinces. In all of these, while there was no marked development during the year, the areas allotted substantially exceeded the areas relinquished. In the aggregate, 56,651 acres were allotted, while 33,115 acres were relinquished. Fourteen square miles were also disforested in the year under report. There now remains 3¼ million acres available for allotment. In Berar, 40,000 acres were newly allotted in khalsa villages.

6.—GOVERNMENT ESTATES. GOVERNMENT ESTATES.

34. There are no Government Estates in the Central Provinces or Berar.

7.—WARDS' ESTATES. WARDS' ESTATES.

[Report on the management by Government of Private Estates for the year ending the 30th September 1906.]

35. The more guarded policy which has prevailed of recent years in respect of the assumption and retention of heavily involved estates was continued, and only three estates were taken under management during the year. Seven estates, **The Central Provinces.**

WARDS' ESTATES.

including the important Sausthanik estate in Nagpur, were relinquished, while six which lay in the Sambalpur district were transferred to Bengal. As a result of these changes, there were 81 estates under management at the close of the year as compared with 91 at the beginning. Only four years ago there were no fewer than 140 estates under the Court of Wards. One of the estates now under management is administered under the Guardians and Wards Act, the remainder under the Court of Wards Act.

Income.

36. The total gross income of the year amounted to a little over 10 lakhs, out of which sum 6¼ lakhs consisted of rental collections Nearly 97 per cent of the current rental demand was collected, and this generally without any marked resort to coercion. Forest income accounts for 2¼ lakhs, and has generally improved in those estates where it is of any importance, a result which may no doubt be attributed to the policy of strengthening and awarding more adequate pay to the forest staffs. Forest Divisional Officers have given valuable advice and assistance in the working of the forests.

Expenditure.

37. The gross ordinary expenditure of the year was almost 7½ lakhs. In many estates the abolition of the Patwari Cess afforded an appreciable saving. The cost of management for all the estates amounted only to 14 per cent of the gross income, the proportion being as usual highest in those estates which contain large and scattered forests which require an ample staff for their proper supervision Land revenue accounted for some 40 per cent of the total expenditure, while personal expenses absorbed about 18 per cent. Cash takavi to the amount of Rs. 18,000 and also extensive grain loans were given to needy tenants.

Improvements.

38. The expenditure on estate improvements amounted to more than Rs. 62,000, and was fairly equally distributed among the Nagpur, Chhattisgarh and Nerbudda divisions. In Jubbulpore it has been recognised that there is little scope for expenditure on this head, and surplus funds are more usually devoted to other objects, such as the purchase of villages or shares therein. Rs. 18,300 were thus spent in one estate alone in purchasing a share of a village. The outlay on improvements in other divisions is generally directed to the water-supply or to the construction of field embankments ; but such undertakings as roads, dispensaries, cattle-farms and arboriculture also figure among the year's achievements.

Debt.

39. There has been all-round progress in the repayment of debt. Altogether a sum of 4¼ lakhs was repaid, out of which almost 2 lakhs represent savings on current income. The total indebtedness of the estates, which stood at the beginning of the year at nearly 10½ lakhs, was reduced to a little over 8¼ lakhs at the close of the year. The position of only seven estates gives cause for any anxiety.

General.

40. The conduct of the wards was generally satisfactory, and the necessary arrangements were made for the education of those of a suitable age. Wherever possible, those of more mature years were given instruction in the practical management of their estates. Home-farm cultivation, which requires the most careful supervision in order to attain success, gave somewhat unequal results, but the policy of granting rewards to inferior officials for good work was found to act as a great incentive to efficiency. In places experiments were made in the distribution of selected seed to tenants or in the introduction of new crops: these efforts also were attended with varying results. In one estate in Betul a co-operative credit society was started, and partially financed by a loan from the estate funds. The low statistics of surrenders show that the tenants as a body are contented with the action of the Court of Wards as landlord.

Berar.

41. There are no Court of Wards estates in the Berar division.

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

8.—REVENUE- AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

[Resolution on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th September 1906. Report on the Revenue Administration of Berar for the year 1905-06.]

General conditions.

42. The generally fair harvests reaped during the agricultural year 1905-06 ensured the prosperity of the revenue- and rent-paying classes at the commencement of the period under report. It is true that in Saugor and Damoh and also

in part of Chhattisgarh some special measures of relief were required to meet local distress, but these did not go beyond such moderate palliatives as suspensions of rent and revenue, liberal advances of takavi and forest concessions. In most parts of the Provinces such shortages of outturns as did occur were more often than not recouped by the high prices obtaining in the market for agricultural produce. It must also not be forgotten that the cultivator can and often does supplement his income substantially by doing carrier's work in the slack season. A good kharif crop in the closing months of 1906 still further improved the position. Many indications of the general prosperity of the proprietary and tenant body might be adduced. The cultivated area, which has shown an unbroken increase each year since the last famine, again increased by 2 per cent. Sales of land in execution of Civil Court decrees decreased, while the number of cases in which sale was averted by payment of the claim increased. More frequent disputes over the breaking up of waste, and an increasing tendency to apply for partition, especially in the more advanced tracts, bore testimony to the enhanced value of land. This increased value of land again has directly benefited the land-holding classes by considerably cheapening the rate of interest for monies raised on the security of interests in landed property. Although cattle-disease prevailed in a more or less sporadic form during the year throughout the Provinces, there was a general increase of agricultural stock. In fact, the one point in which the position of the classes now under consideration is weak is in respect of the dearth of labour, a circumstance which, being as it is largely due to the rapid extension of industries, railways and irrigation works, it is impossible altogether to lament.

Tenants.

43. Rental collections, as might have been expected, were good. In those districts of the Central Provinces for which statistics are available, collections of the current demand averaged 88 per cent, and where short collections did occur, they were very often due to inefficient or absentee management on the part of the landlord. In Berar, 99·9 of the current demand was collected. Good collections of takavi, fewer suits for rental arrears and fewer ejectment suits give further evidence of the satisfactory finances of the tenant body. As usual, the area held in absolute-occupancy tenure declined, as is inevitable where the acquisition of the right is practically impossible. The occupancy area decreased, but on the other hand there was an increase in the area held by ordinary tenants. This latter class appears fully to realise the strength of the position accorded to them by the law, and its members rarely exercise their option of acquiring occupancy rights by purchase. There was an increase in the number of sanads granted for land improvements, especially in Saugor, where the example of the Irrigation Department in embanking wheat fields has stimulated a certain amount of similar enterprise among the tenants. The usury-ridden ryots of Sironcha are said to have commenced selling their produce for cash in place of handing it over in the present suicidal fashion to their creditors: if this be true, it betokens the dawn of a new era among the bond-slave tenantry of that tract. Co-operative credit continued to make satisfactory progress in Betul and Nimar and was extended to Hoshangabad and Balaghat during the year.

Landlords.

44. The landlord class naturally enjoyed its full share of the general prosperity, and both collected and paid its dues with little difficulty. Petitions by lambardars for the recovery of revenue from defaulting co-sharers under Section 116 of the Land Revenue Act fell from 420 in number to 314. Private sales of mahals or shares were about as numerous as in the preceding year. A satisfactory proportion of the purchasers were themselves cultivators, and transfers to such persons may generally be welcomed as betokening a healthy condition of ebb and flow among the agricultural population. A marked increase of applications for partition, particularly in the more advanced districts, is indicative of the rising value of land. The area held by proprietors as *sir* declined as usual owing to transfers with reservation of the right of occupancy.

Landlords and tenants.

45. The relations existing between malguzars and their tenants were, as a rule, good. Departures from this condition of things are usually the fault of the landlord and generally arise from earth-hunger in tracts where land is particularly valuable. In Chhattisgarh, however, there was as usual a tendency on the part of dispossessed tenants to attempt recovery of their holdings by violence, but there

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

is reason to believe that this form of lawlessness is considerably less prevalent than it used to be. In the Harda Tahsil of Hoshangabad, where, during the wheat boom of some twenty years since, the ryots were often cruelly oppressed by their malguzars, the relations between the two classes are now of the most satisfactory order. This is doubtless not entirely due to a change from within: this part of the Provinces suffered severely during the famines, and the cry is now rather for tenants than for land. The same may be said of the more jungly tracts of the Provinces, where the unsophisticated aboriginal tenants are automatically protected from oppression on the part of their landlords by the fact that the latter cannot afford to lose them. In the more advanced tracts tenants are safeguarded by their greater wealth and their growing knowledge of their rights under the Tenancy Law.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

1.—LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY.

46. The Legislative Authority for the Central Provinces and Berar is the Council of the Governor-General of India for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations.

2.—COURSE OF LEGISLATION.

COURSE OF LEGISLATION.

47. Only one Act specially affecting the Central Provinces was passed by the Imperial Legislature during the year, *viz.*, the Central Provinces Boilers Act (II of 1907) which received the assent of the Governor-General on the 1st March 1907 It provides for the inspection, licensing, and proper control of boilers. Four Acts, namely, the Co-operative Credit Societies Act (X of 1904), the Government Buildings Act (IV of 1899), the Destruction of Records Act (II of 1879), and the Code of Civil Procedure, 1882, as amended for the Central Provinces by the Central Provinces Laws Act, XX of 1875, were made applicable to Berar by Notifications published in the *Gazette of India*.

3.—POLICE.

POLICE.

[Report on the Police Administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1906, and also Table No. VII of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1906-07.]

Crime.

48. The year was one of general prosperity: the demand for labour was great and wages ruled high. Against these favourable factors must be set the prevalence of plague, the deficiency of the rice crops in a few districts, the immigration into the northern districts of many nearly destitute labourers from Marwar and Rajputana, and the influx of suspicious characters following in the wake of newly opened lines of railway. The net result of these various influences has been a slight increase in crime, but this increase may be regarded as representing a small recovery from the abnormally low figures of recent years, rather than any rise above normality. Part of the increase is also attributed to greater efficiency of reporting in Berar.

Offences against the State.

49. Coining cases have again decreased in number, and there were only two of any importance. Rioting cases were rather more numerous than usual, and mostly occurred, as is usual in a prosperous year, in connection with field disputes.

Offences against the person.

50. With the exception of murder cases, the figures of serious offences against the person show remarkably little fluctuation. The number of murders rose from 164 to 192, which is greatly above the normal of non-famine years. As usual, the motives underlying this class of crime are so various that it is impossible to assign any cause for the increase.

Offences against property.

51. The most satisfactory feature of the year in connection with this class of crime is the decrease of dacoities in Berar from 60 in 1905 to 35 in 1906, which latter figure is the minimum record for that division. The value of the property stolen in these dacoities also fell from Rs. 37,964 to Rs. 6,878. In the Amraoti district alone, good work by the police reduced the number of dacoities from 24 to 8. In the Central Provinces, dacoities were, as usual, of rare occurrence, and only numbered 15 in the 18 districts as against 16 in 1905. Eleven districts were altogether free of the crime. The figures of robberies in the Central Provinces remained at a standstill, but in Berar increased from 129 to 151, most of the increase occurring in the Yeotmal district. In the Berar division there has been an almost unbroken progressive increase in the number of robberies from 69 in 1902 to 151 in 1906, a fact which to some extent modifies the satisfaction to be derived from the concurrent decrease of dacoities. The explanation of this phenomenon is at present uncertain, but it would appear that, while gang robbery has been made more difficult,

conditions are as favourable to individual robbers as they ever were. House-breakings exhibit no particular variations, but the prevalence of plague in any locality was found, as usual, to be followed by an increase in this class of crime. There was a slight rise in the number of minor offences against property.

Police action.

52. There was a small all-round improvement in the proportion of cases convicted to cases decided: in the Central Provinces the proportion of cases convicted to cases investigated rose above last year's unusually low figure, in Berar it fell, while there was a very satisfactory all-round increase in the proportion of persons convicted to those arrested, and a slight fall in the proportion of persons convicted to those sent up for trial. The percentage of property recovered declined slightly in the Central Provinces and remained stationary in Berar, but still compares favourably with the results of other provinces. Plague conditions favoured the escape of burglars and thieves with their plunder, but the bolder types of criminal, *viz.*, dacoits, robbers and murderers, were more successfully dealt with, 33 per cent of the property stolen by them being recovered as against 23 per cent in 1905. Sound and discreet discrimination appears to have been exercised in the matter of refusal of investigation in petty cases. The difference both in standard and results between the Central Provinces and Berar still affords occasion for remark, and the poorer results of the latter division cannot be wholly attributed to the more difficult conditions under which the police have to work. Detective work was on the whole characterised by a more simple and straightforward spirit, which augurs well for the future of police investigation. Some remarkable results were attained in the Jubbulpore district. Sixteen murder cases during the year show 1 death and 1 suicide of the accused, 11 convictions, only 1 acquittal, 2 pending (both convicted later) and none untraced or unarrested. Four dacoity cases occurred in this district, all of which were the work of professional criminals, but all were detected and the accused, numbering 19 persons, convicted. There was a slight fall in the number of vagrancy and bad-livelihood cases, and it is thought that the foreign criminal does not find this Province so convenient a resort as he used to.

Rural and Punitive Police.

53. There are no rural police in this Province. A few punitive police were quartered in a specially troublesome village in the Saugor district.

Establishment.

54. The year was marked by the further introduction of Police Commission reforms. The revision of the gazetted staff came into force. Two Deputy Inspectors-General and a Railway Superintendent were appointed: the complete re-grading of constables was given effect to from the 1st July 1906, while the scheme for re-grading Head Constables was partially introduced. Four appointments were tentatively made to the new rank of Deputy Superintendent, and these appointments, so far as they go, have proved a great success. Fifteen posts of Inspector, 160 posts of Sub-Inspector, and 8 posts of Sergeant were also added. The Police Officers' Training School at Saugor passed out 149 candidates, some of whom were found fit for immediate employ as Sub-Inspectors, but the majority, who had had no previous experience in practical work, had to be put through a further course of practical training after leaving the school. The sanctioned cadre of the force now stands at 531 officers and 11,703 men, but only 500 officers and 10,550 men were actually entertained during the year. The shortage occurs mainly in the Nagpur and Berar country, where recruitment has for a long time past been a source of much anxiety. It was hoped that the new scale of pay for constables would do something to ameliorate these difficulties, but it is now certain that the inducements offered are insufficient to attract a suitable class of men where high wages are easily obtainable in other walks of life, and some further remedy will have to be devised. The distribution of the force from district to district in proportion to area and population leaves much to be desired, but this matter is receiving attention. Deaths rose from 131 to 195, an appreciable proportion of the increase being due to plague, which played especial havoc among the Nagpur force. Resignations increased by some 20 per cent, and were noticeably frequent in those districts where recruiting is most difficult. An important change of system was inaugurated during the year, *viz.*, the substitution of the self-contained station-house circle for the old circle consisting of one station-house and one or more outposts. The new system was

started as a *tour-de-force* in the Raipur and Drug districts at the time when the newly formed Drug district was first formed, and has on the whole worked fairly well, in spite of deficiencies in accommodation and staff. The grand total cost of the Police rose from Rs. 20,48,649 to Rs. 23,84,275 in consequence of the reforms.

55. The punishment roll, which has been decreasing year by year, again shows marked diminution. Discipline is on the whole excellent in the Central Provinces, but bad in Berar, where the average constable cares too little for his post to be amenable to authority. **Discipline.**

4.—CRIMINAL JUSTICE. CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

[Report on the Judicial Administration (Criminal) of the Central Provinces for the year 1906, and Table IV of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1906-07.]

56. The total number of cases reported and of cases returned as true declined by about five per cent. The decrease, however, is chiefly in regard to offences under special and local laws, and is due mainly to the withdrawal of the application of Section 34 of the Police Act to 13 towns in Berar, and to the power of compounding certain offences under the Municipal Act conferred on municipal authorities during the year. If offences under special and local laws be excluded, there is an increase of 1,485 in the number of offences reported and of 1,476 in the number returned as true, but the increase is noticeably large only under the heads of hurt and assault, and is simply the natural concomitant of a year of general prosperity. **Crime.**

57. The strength of the Magistracy increased very slightly, and stood at 434 at the close of the year. The Honorary Magistracy was strengthened in several districts, particularly in Berar, which is at present ill-provided in this respect, though studded with towns of moderate size, which should afford an excellent field for the expansion of this system. The bulk of the criminal work fell as usual to the Stipendiary Magistrates, but there has been a slight increase in the proportion falling to Honorary Magistrates. The proportion of cases tried summarily remains practically constant, being 40·9 per cent. Summary powers are now being granted more sparingly than in the past. There is a marked fall from 45·8 to 40·4 in the percentage of convictions and commitments, but this is sufficiently accounted for by the decrease in the number of nuisance cases and by the rise in hurt and assault cases noted above. **Courts of original jurisdiction.**

58. The average duration of cases rose to 14·9 days in police cases and to 15·5 days in complaint cases; this was owing to an increase in the number of witnesses summoned and in the percentage examined. The number of complaints dismissed under Section 203 and the number of cases in which complainants were made to pay compensation to the accused under Section 250, Criminal Procedure Code, are practically the same as last year. It still appears to be open to doubt whether these sections are sufficiently employed in spite of the frequency with which the attention of Magistrates is invited to them and the obvious relief which they afford to unnecessarily congested files. In Berar, where a tendency has for some years past been observed for the people to bring all their grievances, even those which are of a purely civil nature, into the Criminal Courts, these sections have received increased attentions, but are not yet worked to the full extent desirable. **The despatch of business.**

59. A further decline occurred in the duration of Sessions cases. The average is now 50 days It still remains high in Berar, although there are two Sessions Judges and two Additional Sessions Judges in that division. Delays and carelessness on the part of the lower courts are assigned as the reasons, but outside Berar the real remedy for the slow disposal of work lies in reducing the size of the Sessions divisions. **Sessions Courts.**

60. The total number of appellants remained almost the same as it was last year, but there was a fall in the numbers who appealed to the Judicial Commissioner's Court and to the Sessions Courts. The percentage of sentences confirmed was 66·5 in the Judicial Commissioner's Court, 71·7 in the Sessions Courts, and 55·5 in the District Magistrates' Courts. The rise in the Sessions Courts seems to indicate an improvement in the work of 1st class Magistrates. **Appellate and revisional jurisdiction.**

Five appeals were preferred by the Local Government against orders of acquittal passed by Magistrates or Judges. In one of these, the prosecution was withdrawn owing to the accused having left British India: in one, a re-trial was ordered: convictions were obtained in two, while in the fifth case the order of acquittal was upheld. There is nothing remarkable to record about the revisional jurisdiction of the year.

Punishments.

61. Out of 34 death sentences coming before the Judicial Commissioner, 20 were confirmed: of the balance, the sentence was reduced to transportation in 5, and to rigorous imprisonment in 9. Eighty-one persons were sentenced to transportation by Courts of Session as against 76 in 1905. The total number of persons convicted during the year was less by 2,995, but on the other hand the number of those released on probation rose from 138 to 211, and it appears probable that, in consequence of recent instructions, this power will be exercised even more freely in future. Short-term sentences fell from 169 to 163, and the greatest care has been exercised to avoid sending juveniles unnecessarily to prison. The percentage of fines to the total number of punishments inflicted declined from 80 to 75. This is the natural result of the decrease in nuisance cases.

PRISONS. 5.—PRISONS.

[Report on the Jails of the Central Provinces for the year 1906, and Table V of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1906-07.]

General.

62. The number of jails remained at 24. Proposals were sanctioned during the year for the reduction of the District Jails of Wardha and Damoh to the status of Subsidiary Jails, but, as it was afterwards found that the economies effected thereby in the Jail Department were counterbalanced by an equivalent expenditure in the Police Department for extra guards, the decision as to their reduction will be held in abeyance for another year. The question of reducing the Amraoti and Akola Central Jails to 1st class District Jails is now under consideration. The year was characterised by a small jail population, general good health, and a marked rise in the cost of maintenance. There has been difficulty in recruiting warders, and the work of this class of officials has not been generally satisfactory. During the year an unusual incident occurred at the Hoshangabad Jail, where a warder under suspension succeeded in obtaining a rifle and some ammunition and defied capture for about 12 hours. Fortunately no loss of life occurred. He was sent up for trial and sentenced under two counts to an aggregate of twelve years' imprisonment, while the jail officials responsible were severely punished.

Jail population.

63. The general prosperity found its reflection in a further decrease of the jail population. Admissions, which fell by 692 last year, have further dropped by 614, and at the close of the year 3,267 prisoners were under detention as compared with 3,441 at the end of 1905. In some measure these satisfactory results may fairly be attributed to the more effective preventive action of the Police.

There has been a welcome and substantial diminution in the numbers of juvenile offenders admitted during the year. Admissions of those under 16 declined by 30 per cent., while only 24 juveniles under 15 were admitted against 37 last year. It is hoped ere long to formulate proposals for the confinement of juveniles and adolescents apart from adult criminals, and to arrange if possible for the segregation of habitual from casual juveniles.

Despite the decrease of the jail population as a whole, the number of habituals admitted is practically the same as last year. Prosperous seasons tend rather to increase than to diminish habitual crime, and the only deterrent for the habitual offender is to make life within the jail walls thoroughly unattractive to him. Care is exercised to secure the segregation of habituals from casuals in all jails, but save in the Central Jails of Nagpur and Jubbulpore, where there are separate octagons, this segregation cannot be so complete as to obviate wholly the risk of intercommunication. The policy indicated is the concentration of habituals in Central Jails and of casuals in District Jails.

There were eight escapes during the year, which is about the usual number: all but one were effected by convicts employed on extra-mural labour. The opportunities for escape afforded by this form of labour sometimes prove too tempting even for prisoners who have only a brief remainder of their sentence to serve.

64. There has been a considerable increase in the number of prison offences and punishments. The increase is almost entirely confined to offences relating to work, and is doubtless due to greater strictness in enforcing tasks. Offences relating to prohibited articles have substantially decreased, but assaults, &c., have increased, notably in Jubbulpore Jail, which contains a large number of obstreperous convicts who resent discipline. With an average daily prison population of 759, no fewer than 33 such offences took place. **Jail discipline.**

The number of corporal punishments fell from 124 to 86, but there has been more free resort to hand-cuffing behind the back or to a staple, a perhaps even more deterrent form of punishment. Penal diet shows a considerable decrease, but its use in combination with solitary confinement has been appreciably more common. Warnings continue to be the most common form of punishment in most jails.

65. The general health of the prisoners throughout the year was very good. The ratio of deaths *per mille* fell from 14 to 13 for convicts, and from 26 to 20 for under-trial prisoners. These figures are the second best recorded since 1885. The ratio *per mille* of the daily average of sick fell from 21 for convicts and 18 for under-trial prisoners to 19 and 14 respectively. No case of plague occurred in any jail even where the neighbourhood was infected, and, except for a single case at Amraoti, cholera was also successfully kept out of all jails. Inoculation of prisoners and warders against plague was carried out at three jails. Another notable feature was the decrease of respiratory diseases. **Health.**

66. There has been a decrease in cash earnings amounting to Rs. 50,000 in Central Jails and to Rs. 5,000 in District Jails, but most of this can be attributed to the obscuration of the actual results of the year by late debits and credits. The average cash earnings of each prisoner amounted to Rs. 38-5-0, while the average profit per head of the number employed on jail manufactures rose to Rs. 158-7-3. **Jail industries.**

67. The annual cost per prisoner rose from Rs. 90 to Rs. 97, and the net cost from Rs. 43 to Rs. 63. The reason for this increase lay rather in the diminution of the jail population and in the rise of the price of food-grains than in any excess of expenditure for maintenance. There is room for the exercise of greater economy in the purchase and storage of grain, and for the closer watching of the market in order to take advantage of any fall in prices. Over the whole Province it cost Rs. 8 per month to feed, clothe, medically treat, and guard each prisoner, out of which sum his actual food cost Rs. 2 per month. **Cost of jail administration.**

6.—CIVIL JUSTICE. CIVIL JUSTICE.

[Report on the Judicial Administration (Civil) of the Central Provinces for the year 1906, and Table III of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for the year 1906-07.]

68. There was a decrease of some 4,700 in the number of suits instituted in the combined Provinces. The decrease in the Central Provinces amounted to 7,000 and was due to the cessation of the filing of awards in debt conciliation proceedings in Bhandara and Hoshangabad. The fall that occurred last year in Berar has this year been counterbalanced by an equivalent rise, which is attributed to the clearing off of old cases, the opening of new courts, and the certainty of the *venue* of cases. **Character of litigation.**

The value of suits increased by some 13 lakhs in Berar, but fell by some 30 lakhs in the Central Provinces, but last year's figures for the latter were unduly inflated by conciliation proceedings. A fall is to be noted both in the number and in the total value of cases not exceeding Rs. 50, which may doubtless be attributed to the high wages now prevailing, and the consequent relaxation of the tendency to take claims for trivial sums before the courts.

69. Special efforts have been made during the year to clear off long-pending cases, and although the number of cases pending over six months has appreciably risen, their average age is much less than it used to be. The pending files however still continue to be heavy in several districts, but they are being closely watched, and steps have been taken to prevent their undue increase. Both East and West Berar have larger pending files than all the 18 districts of the Central Provinces taken collectively, and so far it has been found that the **Pending suits.**

chief result of working off old arrears has been a rise in institutions. One result of the attention paid to long-pending cases has been the increase in average duration of both contested and uncontested cases. This feature is also, as regards contested cases, attributed in part to the calling of a larger number of witnesses, which again indicates a tendency to contest suits more hotly.

Execution of decrees.

70. The number of applications for execution declined by nearly 8 per cent. Of the total number of applications disposed of 6·4 per cent were transferred, 54·6 were wholly infructuous, 16·6 were satisfied in part, and 22·4 were satisfied in full.

Appellate litigation.

71. The number of first and miscellaneous appeals instituted in the Courts of Divisional and District Judges increased both in the Central Provinces and Berar; while the number of appeals disposed of by Divisional Courts fell from 398 to 337, and the number pending rose from 88 to 113. The slight increase in the number of pending cases was due to heavy sessions cases and to press of administrative work in connection with the organization of the new district offices. There was a marked reduction in the average duration of appeals in the Court of the Divisional Judge, Nerbudda division, which formerly stood at a very high figure. Appeals filed in the Court of the Judicial Commissioner remained fairly constant, except that the pending file tends to increase, and the number of cases pending over six months rose from 19 to 58. The figures of dismissals and confirmations in appellate cases are almost proportionate to those for 1905, and call for no comment.

Miscellaneous.

72. The separation of the Judicial from the Executive establishments in the District Courts took effect from the 1st October, and has given much satisfaction. A comprehensive scheme for improving the prospects of the Provincial Judicial service was also submitted. Meanwhile the difficulty of obtaining and retaining Law graduates for the service have increased, and no qualified candidates are available. The question of the pay of the lower grades of clerks is also becoming an urgent one. The work of assimilating Berar procedure to that of the Central Provinces is now practically completed. Great progress was made towards providing proper accommodation both for the District Courts and at tahsils, and there are now few districts where a suitable District Court-house is not either under construction or sanctioned.

REGISTRATION. 7.—REGISTRATION.

[Note on the working of the Registration Department in the Central Provinces during the year 1906, and Table IX of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1906-07.]

Registrations affecting immoveable property.

73. Compulsory registrations affecting immoveable property have increased by 7 per cent, and the value of the property affected by 9 per cent. The increase in value is particularly marked in Berar, and is attributed to the rising value of land. The increase under gifts is noticeable, and is attributed to plague and the fear of plague, gifts *inter vivos* serving in place of wills. Perpetual leases exhibit a further increase in the Central Provinces, and inquiry shows that they are mostly executed in evasion of the restrictions of the Tenancy Act.

The marked increase in the value of optional registrations of immoveable property in the Central Provinces is due to a single award of over Rs. 1,63,000 having been registered in the Hoshangabad district.

Sales of villages and shares of villages, especially to non-agriculturists, declined slightly. Mortgages of villages to agriculturists continued at the same figure, but mortgages to non-agriculturists declined by 25 per cent. Transfers and mortgages of plots and holdings were steady.

Registrations affecting moveable property.

74. There was a fall in value in the Central Provinces in registrations affecting moveable property; this was due to an exceptional transaction having raised the figure of last year. In Nimar sales decreased, but they still amounted to nearly half the Central Provinces and Berar total. They were mostly *benami* transactions to defeat creditors.

Miscellaneous.

75. Refusals to register increased considerably in Berar. Receipts increased by 10 per cent, and have been found to expand in Chhattisgarh and Chanda with the opening of new offices, a fact which is of interest in considering whether the Central Provinces is sufficiently served with registration

offices, though it is doubtful whether similar results would follow from the increase of offices in less unwieldy districts. Three new offices were opened in the Central Provinces, while two offices in Berar were abolished on the amalgamation of the six districts into four. The newly opened offices and re-organization charges led to an increase of expenditure in the Central Provinces by about Rs. 5,000, while the expenditure in Berar remained stationary.

8.—MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION.

[Resolution on the working of the Municipal Committees of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1906-07, and Table XVII-1, 2-L, 3-L and 4 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for the year 1906-07.]

Number and constitution of Municipalities.

76. The total number of Municipalities at the close of the year 1906-07 was 58, this figure being the same as in the preceding year. There are 45 Municipal towns in the Central Provinces proper, and the elective principle is in force in all of them except Khapa and Pachmarhi, where the Committees consist exclusively of nominated members. Since the close of the year, it has been found necessary to replace the elected Committee at Kalmeshwar by a nominated one, owing to the conduct of the former Committee in dealing with an outbreak of plague. In Berar there are 13 Municipalities, in six of which the greater proportion of the members are elected, while in a seventh (Akot) three-fourths of the members are nominated and one-fourth elected. In the remaining Committees all the members were nominated; but since the close of the year the elective system has been extended to the Yeotmal and Karanja Municipalities. In the year under report effect was given to the constitution of the town of Drug as a notified area under the provisions of Chapter XI of the Central Provinces Municipal Act; and since the close of the year two more towns, *viz.*, Gondia and Betul, have been notified under the same provisions.

Income.

77. The total income of all the Municipalities, excluding Loans and Accounts heads, was Rs. 20,50,375 against Rs. 19,67,916 in the previous year. The increase was shared by almost all the Municipalities in the Provinces, but more than half of it was contributed by Nagpur, where there was an increase of Rs. 46,344. The rise in income of this Municipality was due to an increase in receipts under octroi, water-rate and conservancy. The increase under these heads is attributable to better supervision and to better collection in consequence of the immunity of the town from plague during the year. The total Muncipal receipts of the Province increased under almost every head, and especially under grants and contributions for general and special purposes, in which there was an increase of Rs. 32,493. Taxes other than octroi produced an income of Rs. 5,63,343 as compared with Rs. 5,45,117 in the previous year. The receipts from water-rates and conservancy taxes rose by Rs. 20,943, owing to the changes in the system of assessment. The income realized from pounds rose from Rs. 57,836 to Rs. 65,991. The opening balance at the credit of all Municipalities was Rs. 8,26,678 (including cheques outstanding amounting to Rs. 66,580), and their total disbursements amounted to Rs. 22,93,900, leaving a credit balance of Rs. 10,26,773 exclusive of deposits.

Expenditure.

78. The total expenditure of all the Municipalities increased from Rs. 17,69,653 to Rs. 18,91,727, or by Rs. 1,22,074. The increase was common to all Municipalities. Expenditure on markets and slaughter-houses increased from Rs. 50,623 to Rs. 61,375, or by Rs. 10,752. The increase of Rs. 14,148 in Nagpur was due to the acquisition of sites for the improvement of markets. Expenditure on roads decreased from Rs. 2,08,398 to Rs. 1,64,391, Nagpur alone accounting for a decrease of Rs. 26,723. The expenditure on public instruction rose from Rs. 2,15,180 to Rs. 2,29,759, and that on hospitals and dispensaries from Rs. 79,565 to Rs. 1,05,882. There was also a large increase of Rs. 52,789 under plague charges, the expenditure on this object amounting to Rs. 76,693, as against Rs. 23,904 during the preceding year. The largest increases occurred in Jubbulpore and Nagpur.

Financial position.

79. The number of Municipalities which had taken loans remained at 10. Of these eight have borrowed from Government and two from private sources. The Jubbulpore Municipality applied for a fresh loan of $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs during the year to carry out necessary improvement in their water-works. This amount was reduced

to 3 lakhs, and half was taken during the year under report, while the other half was granted during the year 1907-08. The balance of the previous loan at the close of the year was Rs. 1,49,928. The Nagpur Municipality was granted two new loans of Rs. 1,00,000 and Rs. 50,000, respectively, during the year 1906-07. The first was for the improvement of markets, out of which only Rs. 50,000 was actually taken during the year, and the second for opening out congested areas. The balance of the previous loans at the close of the year was Rs. 2,03,005.

General.

80. The majority of the Municipal Committees have done good work during the year, and the relations between Government officials and Committees continued to be satisfactory. The Municipal members in the larger towns in the Central Provinces continued to show their public spirit in their attitude towards all schemes of Municipal improvements.

9.—DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS.

DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS.

[Report on the working of the District Councils and Local Boards for 1906-07, and Table XVIII of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for the year 1906-07.]

Number and constitution.

81. Owing to the re-distribution of territory in the Chhattisgarh division, and the formation of the Drug district in that division, the number of District Boards in the Province rose from 20 to 21 and the number of Local Boards from 72 to 75. The formation of the new circles and groups in the Chhattisgarh division was completed in April 1906, but the new Boards will not come into office till the 1st April 1908, and in the meantime the old Boards will continue to act. The number of meetings held by all the Councils fell from 656 to 642, the Councils holding an average of six meetings each, and the Local Boards an average of seven meetings each. With the exception of the Bilaspur District Council, every Council held at least the prescribed number of four meetings. Nineteen Local Boards failed to hold the prescribed number of meetings, namely, six in the Central Provinces and eight in Berar. The average attendance decreased from 43 to 40 per cent on the number of members. With the exclusion of District Funds from the Provincial accounts, which takes place on the 1st April 1908, and the delegation to Local Boards of substantial powers of expenditure and general control a great improvement in attendance and in the interest taken by members in their work should be manifested.

Income.

82. The total receipts of all the Boards excluding account heads amounted to Rs. 23,16,038 as compared with Rs. 21,73,102 in the previous year. The increase is chiefly due to an enhanced contribution of Rs. 35,530 from Provincial Revenues and to the transfer of the dâk cess to District Funds. The receipts were further augmented by additional income amounting to Rs. 36,371 from cattlepounds. The Provincial contributions in the Central Provinces amounted to Rs. 5,47,098 against Rs. 5,24,744 last year, showing an increase of Rs. 22,354. The contributions to Berar Boards from the same source aggregated Rs. 1,80,008 against Rs. 1,66,832 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 13,176. The other variations in the receipts in the Central Provinces and Berar were slight. The increase in the receipts from pounds in Berar, *viz.*, Rs. 18,990, was due to the scarcity of pasture consequent on the increased cultivation of cotton. The incidence of taxation per head of population in the Central Provinces rose from nine pies to one anna one pie and in Berar from three annas two pies to three annas seven pies. The incidence of total income rose in the Central Provinces from two annas three pies to two annas eleven pies, while in Berar it remained the same, namely, five annas eight pies.

Expenditure.

83. The total expenditure of all the Boards rose from Rs. 1985,447 to Rs. 21,56,224, showing an increase of Rs. 1,70,777. The main increases in the Central Provinces were (i) under "Education," on which the total expenditure amounted to Rs. 5,58,945 as compared with Rs. 5,12,187 in the previous year, and (ii) under "Civil Works," which accounted for an increase of Rs. 87,810. There were also increases in the expenditure on (1) Pounds and (2) Hospitals and Dispensaries and (3) under "Veterinary." The principal increases in Berar were under (1) Education, on which the total expenditure amounted to Rs. 2,29,182 as compared with Rs. 1,98,233 in the previous year, (2) Hospitals and Dispensaries, which accounted for an increase of Rs. 19,105, and (3) Civil Works, which amounted to Rs. 4,35,918 as compared with Rs. 4,27,851 in the previous year,

or an increase of Rs. 8,067. The unspent balances both in the Central Provinces and Berar rose from Rs. 14,55,633 to Rs. 15,83,628, or by Rs. 1,27,995. These are still very large. But the extension of schools and the improvement of the staff of overseers will result in the creation of permanent charges of a considerable amount on the Councils' income.

84. The work of the Local Boards has been generally satisfactory, and many individual members have taken an active interest in their work. **General.**

10.—MILITARY (VOLUNTEERING). MILITARY.

85. There are two Volunteer Corps in the Provinces, the Nagpur Rifles and the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Rifles. **Number of active Corps.**

86. The enrolled strength of the former Corps was 636, of whom 23 were commissioned officers. Of this total figure 511 were extra-efficient, 56 efficient and 40 non-efficient. The marksmen numbered 125 as against 103 last year. The expenditure of the year was heavy, and a large sum had to be taken from the capitation grant to meet the cost of the Band. A camp-of-exercise was held in January 1907, and 8 officers and 262 men attended the camp and general inspection. **The Nagpur Volunteer Rifles.**

A mounted troop, the formation of which was sanctioned by the Government of India in 1905, is attached to the Nagpur Volunteer Rifles. It has made good progress during the year, there being altogether 45 efficients.

87. The Bengal-Nagpur Railway Rifle Corps is divided into two battalions, the first, which is under the administrative control of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, having its head-quarters at Khargpur in Bengal and the second at Nagpur. The total enrolled strength of the second battalion on the 31st March 1907 was 530 including 18 commissioned officers. Only 14 men failed to qualify as efficients or extra-efficients, and the number of marksmen shows an increase over last year. The financial position of the Corps is very satisfactory. During January 1907, a camp-of-exercise was held for both the battalions at Adra and was attended by 113 officers and men of the second battalion. **The Bengal-Nagpur Railway Rifles.**

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

1.—AGRICULTURE.

AGRICULTURE.

[Reports on the working of the Department of Agriculture and on the Agricultural Stations of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th June 1907: Report on the working of the Civil Veterinary Department of the Central Provinces during the year ending the 31st March 1907, and Report on the working of the Co-operative Credit Societies, Central Provinces and Berar, for the year 1906-07.]

Agricultural education.

88. The Agricultural School was during the year under report raised to the status of a College with a three-year course. Progress was, however, far from satisfactory. A rise in the qualifications demanded of candidates and a general ignorance of the prospects open to the scholars in Government service on completion of their training caused an almost entire absence of candidates, the number that remained throughout the year being nine only. Fortunately, however, the publication of the Departmental prospectus has now given a great stimulus to recruiting, although this is in the main confined to the literary castes and to the inhabitants of the southern portion only of the Province. Some progress was made in supplying the College with laboratory fittings. The malguzari class decreased in numbers, and still fails to draw its members from the best sources, nor can an alteration of this state of things be hoped for till the educative effects of the District Agricultural Associations have made themselves felt among the landowners of the Province.

The circulation of the *Agricultural Gazette* increased by 356 copies monthly, and the Gazette itself gained considerable vogue among the people, many of whom came from distant villages to the farms to buy seed which they had seen advertised in it. In fact, it is now so widely circulated that it affords a vehicle for the dissemination of useful information which promises to supersede altogether the distribution of separate booklets and leaflets on agricultural topics.

Agricultural experiments.

89. A new Agricultural Station to serve Berar was established at Akola in June 1906, and eleven series of experiments, principally with juar and cotton, were initiated. Want of accommodation both for the staff and for the farm-stock hindered operations a good deal, but the farm was completely fenced, and good progress was made with roads and buildings. The new land taken up at Hoshangabad to replace that injured by scouring was brought into a good state of tilth, and is being tested to determine the plots most suitable for experimental work. Among other interesting work done on this farm were experiments showing the efficacy of green-soiling with hemp, the advantage of sowing kharif crops in lines instead of broadcast, and the growing of Russian flax. At this farm also, new buildings and a new road were completed. At Raipur, the great advantages of transplantation of rice under irrigation, as compared with the various local methods of sowing broadcast, continued to be shown by experiment. This work is an essential complement of the extensive irrigation schemes which are in train in this part of the Province. Another important departure was the cultivation of jute as an irrigated crop: it did extremely well, but the fibre has yet to be tested: if this is satisfactory and sufficient irrigation be available at the right time of year, this crop should be a most important addition to the commercial crops of Chhattisgarh. At Nagpur, a new range of farm buildings and a system of farm roads were under construction, and an additional area of 189 acres was prepared for seed production. Interesting and, owing to the conditions of the year, most searching experiments were conducted to ascertain the rust-resisting properties of various kinds of wheat, and the liability of various kinds of tur to wilt was also tested. Some very important experiments in cotton manures were also commenced. Other enquiries dealt with the residual effects of manures both on irrigated and on unirrigated lands. Experiments in irrigated wheat as a second crop after rice, whether undertaken by the Agricultural or by the Irrigation Department, or by the district staff, were, chiefly owing to rust induced by the cold-weather rains, uniformly unsuccessful.

90. Demonstration plots were worked at Semri in the Damoh district and at Bhatapara. The object of the former was to show the advantage of sowing kharif crops in lines, but the soil proved unsuitable. The Bhatapara plot, which was cultivated in order to show the possibility of growing cotton and juar in Chhattisgarh, was abandoned after the close of the year. The possibility was proved, but local cultivators did not follow the example set them. Plots for raising seed for distribution were as usual cultivated at the various experimental farms, one important departure being the introduction of Saoner juar in Berar through the Akola Farm. This crop was highly appreciated by the local cultivators, who bought over 18,000 lb. of the seed. An increase took place in the amount of nearly every kind of seed distributed by the department. This is due to the larger circulation of the Gazette, to the new farm at Akola, and to the fact that the cotton seed farms have been placed on a sounder basis. At present the seed raised at these farms is in no sense selected, but careful attention is now being made to the selection of cotton seed at the Nagpur Farm, and it will be possible in this way to supply the farms with seed of an improved strain every year. The demand for agricultural machinery continued and more implements were ordered than the department could supply. Turnwrest ploughs and winnowers were most in favour. The pickling of juar seed by sulphate of copper was demonstrated in six districts, and large quantities of sulphate of copper were distributed gratis. The process has become a regular agricultural practice in many villages of the Nimar district, where demonstration of it is now deemed unnecessary. The Meagher system of sewage disposal was demonstrated in four districts, but remains unpopular. The Beheea sugarcane mill was introduced with some promise of success in the Balaghat District under the auspices of the Court of Wards. In Saugor, Damoh and Seoni over Rs. 33,000 were spent in embanking wheat fields. The Agricultural Chemist was hindered in his research work by the lack of proper equipment, but he made various enquiries, analysed different soils and manures, and reported on the composition of saline deposits from the Lonar lake and of coal from the Ballarpur colliery.

Agricultural demonstration and enquiry.

91. Substantial improvement and progress were made by the Agricultural Associations during the year. A general readiness was evinced by them to try the various seeds, implements and manures recommended to them by the Agricultural Department. There is, however, need of the fuller representation of *bonâ fide* agriculturists on these associations, many of the members being mere townsmen who happen to own villages.

District Associations.

92. The year under report was a period of remarkable progress for the co-operative credit movement in this Province. At its commencement, only one Urban and eight Rural Societies had been registered. By the 30th June 1907, a Central Society had been registered at Kirnapur, while five Urban (of which two were really Central) and 55 Rural Societies had been organized in various districts. Twenty-four of the Rural Societies had not actually commenced work, but in the case of the majority of these the cause was simply that they had only just been registered. The number of members increased to 2,870 and the number of loans made to 2,082. The actual working of the societies was on the whole very satisfactory, and, except in Sironcha, they have hitherto met with a sympathetic reception at the hands of the money-lending classes. The total capital at the disposal of all the societies was about Rs. 62,000, of which Rs. 7,500 represented loans from Government or the Court of Wards, Rs. 7,000 loans from non-members, Rs. 16,000 deposits by members, and Rs. 31,500 the price of shares. Profits were small owing to the fact that in most societies money has to lie idle for nearly half the year, *viz.*, from May, when loans are repaid, till October, when the agriculturists again come for advances. Thus the building up of a reserve is a slow matter, and indeed has practically only begun in the older-established banks in the Hoshangabad district. The rural banks are of various types, but are still in most districts mere land banks run by the well-to-do classes for the supply of cheap money to their poorer neighbours. In Jubbulpore, however, new societies have been started composed entirely of borrowing members which, though they are entirely dependent on a Central Society for financial help, are constituted on thoroughly democratic lines and are more nearly co-operative than the banks of most districts. In Balaghat also the democratic type is prevalent and has met with success. At Betul, a society solely composed of Government

Co-operative Credit Societies.

servants made a good start. In Sironcha, owing to lack of funds, only 2 out of 13 registered societies were actually working, and there are in this tract special difficulties and influential opposition to overcome, which will probably render extensive aid from, and *supervision by, Government essential for success. A* society was formed at Burhanpur *and financed by Government in order to* mitigate the effects of the great fire which had recently devastated that city. A successful start was also made in the exceedingly promising field offered by the Berar division. Repayments were made with a regularity which was one of the most satisfactory features of the year. On the whole the period was one of striking success, and it is most regrettable that a partial failure of the crops has since occurred which is likely, it is feared, to impose a heavy strain on the societies while their reserves are still scanty and their stability a doubtful factor.

The Veterinary Department.

93. The results of the year's work in the Veterinary Department were disappointing. The sanctioned scale of Veterinary Assistants is 126, but the demand for qualified men is considerably in excess of the supply, and the number of Assistants actually in employ only increased by three during the year, and now stands at 60. Not only was the supply limited, but the quality of the staff was generally poor, and this is the main reason for the slow progress made by the department. A step in the right direction was taken by increasing the number of stipendiary students in training at the Lahore Veterinary College, but it will take some time before this measure will have any appreciable effect. Although there was a slight increase in the number of cases treated at dispensaries, progress in this respect is very slow. Peripatetic work decreased, and the number of inoculations also fell from 12,460 to 11,414, a particularly disappointing result in a year when there was a great deal of contagious disease among cattle. The system of reporting outbreaks of cattle disease was much improved, and information is now received with fair promptitude. Various measures are contemplated which, it is hoped, will give a fillip to inoculation work and improve the working of the department generally. Satisfactory progress has been made in the distribution of good bulls from Government Cattle Farms, and the results obtained at the Nagpur Farm were particularly good.

WEATHER AND CROPS. 2.—WEATHER AND CROPS.

[Season and Crop Report of the Central Provinces for the year 1906-07; Volume of Agricultural Statistics of India, Part I, 1906-07.]

Rainfall.

94. The average rainfall for the year ending on the 31st May 1907 was in the Central Provinces as a whole 53·98 inches, or about 5½ inches above the average for the past 39 years, and in Berar 41·45 inches as against 29·32, the average for the previous 13 years. The monsoon broke in good time, and the rainfall in the months of June and July was ample and well distributed. August began with light to moderate rainfall, succeeded by a much-needed break, and ended with exceptionally heavy rain all over the Provinces. Good rain was received in September, though it was rather too heavy in places. During October there were some heavy showers in Chhattisgarh, which greatly improved the prospects of the rabi crops, and light showers were received in most of the other districts. Further light showers received in November were of much benefit to the rabi crops. The weather remained clear and cool till the middle of December: subsequently there was some rain, though the quantity received was below the normal, and the Nerbudda and Vindhyan districts did not receive any. The weather was dry at the beginning of January, but subsequently light showers were received in almost all districts, in parts accompanied by hail. February was a very wet month, and the rain was accompanied in almost every district by hail, which, however, fortunately did not do nearly so much damage as might have been expected at the time of year. Sunny weather followed and the rainfall in March was about 75 per cent in defect.

Character of the season.

95. The timely burst of the monsoon and the distribution of the rain from July to September were favourable to rice, but rather too heavy for cotton and in some places for juar. The October rains favoured the rabi sowings, while those of November were of much benefit to the young plants. The hail which fell in February did some severe damage, particularly in parts of the more northerly

districts, and the prolonged and excessive rain might have also caused much damage through caterpillars and rust, but fortunately the fine weather that followed averted this consequence, and in some districts the final results of the downpour were favourable.

96. *Rice.*—The rainfall was seasonable and well distributed for this crop, and the harvest ranged from a bumper crop in Raipur to a normal one in Seoni, Narsinghpur, Betul, Chanda and Drug In Bhandara, owing to late transplantations, the yield was only 86 per cent of the normal. For the Province as a whole a little over a full crop was reaped. **Yield of the autumn (kharif) crops.**

Juar.—In Raipur, Drug, Jubbulpore, Narsinghpur, Mandla and the Vindhyan districts, the outturn ranged from 100 to 120 per cent of a normal crop. In the remaining districts the harvest was generally below normal, and in Berar, Betul and Bhandara suffered much from excessive and continuous rain.

Cotton.—Sowings were successful, but the subsequent rainfall in most districts prevented the plants from attaining their full growth, so that the average yield for the whole Province was only three-fourths of the normal. The area under cotton in the Central Provinces decreased by 18 per cent, while in Berar it increased by 3 per cent, this increase being accompanied by a like decrease in the area under juar in that division. In spite of the growing scarcity of karbi for cattle-fodder, the Berari cultivator continues to direct his main efforts to the expansion of cotton cultivation.

Tur.—Tur suffered much from excessive moisture, and subsequently from cloudy weather in November and December. Insects and blight seriously injured the crop in Akola and Amraoti, but the outturn in the northern districts was much better than in the previous year.

Til.—In the more important til-growing districts the yield was equal to or a little over the normal, while Raipur had a full crop, but the outturn in Berar was not so good as in the Central Provinces.

Kodon-kutki.—Kodon-kutki did well and in most districts the outturn ranged from 100 to 135. The yield was nowhere less than 60 per cent of a normal crop.

The kharif area in the Central Provinces decreased by 204,500 acres or 2 per cent, owing to large tracts under juar and cotton having been damaged by excessive rain, and consequently having to be ploughed up and devoted to rabi. The area sown with kharif crops in Berar increased by 24,000 acres owing to the extension of cotton cultivation.

97. *Wheat.*—Germination was generally good and resowing was rarely necessary. A certain amount of rust appeared in February and March, and hail-storms also caused some loss about the same time. In the Central Provinces the crop was 95 per cent and in Berar 67 per cent of the normal yield. The wheat tracts of Chhattisgarh fared particularly well. **Yield of the spring (rabi) crops.**

Gram.—Clouds, hail, heavy rain and insects did a good deal of damage to the gram crop. Only in Nimar, Chhindwara, Raipur and Bilaspur were the outturns equal to or a little over the normal.

Linseed.—Prolonged cloudy weather, frost, rust, rain and hail caused serious damage to linseed. Only in the Vindhyan districts and in Nimar and Raipur did the outturn approach or exceed the normal.

The rabi area in the Central Provinces increased by 11 and in Berar by 5 per cent: the increase was most noticeable in the areas under wheat and linseed. Favourable conditions at the time of sowing and the resowing of certain kharif areas where the crop had failed account for the increase.

3.—HORTICULTURE. HORTICULTURE.

[Report on the management of the Provincial and District Gardens of the Central Provinces for the year 1906-07.]

98. At the Maharajbagh in Nagpur, vegetables and fruits, with the exception of the mango crop, did well. An attempt was made to raise rain crops of cabbages and cauliflowers, but it was unsuccessful. The flower garden was a success, and a great improvement was effected by tastefully laying out the unsightly piece of waste ground in front of the Victoria Technical Institute. **Provincial Gardens.**

HORTICULTURE.

The menagerie fared very badly, with the exception of the deer-park, the number of deaths and escapes being unusually high. Receipts amounted to about Rs. 5,700 and expenditure to about Rs. 19,300, while plants to the value of over Rs. 2,100 were supplied to Government institutions. The Telinkheri Garden did not do quite so well as in the previous year. At Pachmarhi, the season was favourable. The fruit crop was on the whole a success, while the increased demand for vegetables necessitated the opening of a new vegetable garden at Pagara. Quarters for the staff and a cattle-shed were constructed during the year.

District Gardens.

99. Although the mango crop, on which many District Gardens largely depend, was a failure, the financial results of 1906-07 were very satisfactory, the net cost of all gardens only amounting to Rs. 7,721, which cannot be called an excessive figure when it is considered how largely residents at district head-quarters stations are dependent on such gardens for recreation and for the supply of fruit and vegetables. About 5,600 trees were sold or given away during the year. A garden at the Baihar tahsil head-quarters did good work in familiarising malguzars and cultivators with various new kinds of trees and plants, with the result of introducing English vegetables into a number of villages in a tract where previously no vegetables at all were available.

Court of Wards Gardens.

100. Gardens were maintained by the Court of Wards in Wardha, Chanda and Hoshangabad, the expenditure at the last place being on a considerable scale.

FORESTS. 4.—FORESTS.

[Report on the Forest Administration of the Northern, Southern and Berar Circles, Central Prvvinces, for the year ending the 30th June 1907.]

Forest areas.

101. The total area of the State forests of the Central Provinces decreased by 130 square miles, and at the close of the year stood at 22,002 square miles. The decrease was chiefly due to recalculations by the Forest Survey in the Mandla division on the preparation of new maps. The forests of the Betul division were handed over to the Berar circle, while the Nagpur-Wardha division was transferred from the Berar circle to the Southern circle.

Demarcation and Forest Surveys.

102. One hundred and fourteen miles of boundary were newly demarcated. Over 21,000 miles of existing boundaries were repaired, and a great deal of work was done in broadening and improving the boundary lines. The total expenditure on new demarcation and repairs amounted to Rs 18,029. Only 118 miles remained for demarcation at the close of the year. No survey operations were undertaken in either the Northern or the Southern circle, but the topographical survey of the Amraoti, Akola and Yeotmal districts was continued by the Survey of India, all State forests falling within the area taken up being surveyed on a 2-inch scale. About 133 lineal miles of forest boundaries in the Berar circle were also surveyed on a 4-inch scale.

Working-plans.

103. No new working-plans were sanctioned during the year. The prescriptions of sanctioned working-plans were abandoned over an area of 1,403 square miles in the Southern circle, but this area is likely to decrease as the demand for produce increases. The provisions of sanctioned working-plans were generally carried out, but in places this was found impossible owing to absence of demand, want of funds, or dearth of labour. The working-plan for the sâl-forests of the Baihar and Raigarh ranges of the Balaghat division was completed during the year, while those for the Saugor forests and for the Motinala range in Mandla were drafted. Proposals were made for the revision of sanctioned working-plans for several ranges in the Southern circle, where extensive revision of existing working-plans is thought to be necessary. Out of a total forest area of 22,002 square miles, working-plans have been sanctioned for 11,847 square miles, are at present being compiled for 996 square miles, and have still to be taken in hand for an area of 4,473 square miles, of which over one-half lies in the Berar circle. The remaining area (4,686 square miles) does not require working-plans.

Communications.

104. A sum of Rs. 18,132 was spent on the construction of 169 miles of new cart-tracks or paths, while 3,344 miles of existing roads were repaired at a cost of Rs. 19,601. There is still a great deal of work to be done in the direction of opening up the forests by cart roads, and the extent to which new

roads are made use of by purchasers shows that new roads are not only necessary but will also yield a good return. Rs. 3,900 were spent during the year on the working of the Allapilli tramway: the actual cost of tramway transport was 2 annas and 1 pie per cubic foot of timber delivered at the mills: this high rate was due to the fact that only so much timber was brought from the forest as would suffice to keep the mills working.

Protection of Forests.

105. The total number of forest offences was 5,912, which is almost exactly equal to the average of the previous three years. There was a marked decline in the number of offences by fire, a circumstance which must largely be attributed to the favourable character of the year: owing to constant showers throughout April the forests were immune from injury during what is ordinarily the most dangerous part of the fire season. There was an increase in the number of cases of unauthorized grazing; this is generally attributed to better supervision. Five thousand one hundred and fifty-five cases were compounded, while 348 cases were decided in the Courts. There were considerable thefts of forest produce from forests adjacent to the Satpura branch of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, and in Berar cases of encroachment on State forests continued to be common.

Fire-protection.

106. In the Northern and Southern circles 5,024 square miles were under systematic, and 2,200 square miles under partial, protection. The percentage of successful protection was nearly 99 per cent in the area under systematic protection, and not much lower in the partially protected area. The cost of protection varied from Rs. 1-10-3 per square mile for partial protection to Rs. 12-0-11 for special protection. The cost of protection was slightly lower than in the previous year. In the Berar circle the total area under protection was 3,438 square miles, of which over 97 per cent escaped fire; there was a very marked improvement in the Nimar division, where 14 per cent of the forests had been burnt in the preceding year. The average cost of protection in this circle was Rs. 8-2-7 per square mile, but the figures for Berar proper, where large compact masses of forests are exceptional and labour is dear, were considerably higher. The season as a whole was favourable to fire-protection, as much rain fell in the early part of the hot weather: at the same time this rain made it difficult to clear the fire lines properly, so that the fires which occurred in the latter part of the fire season were unusually difficult to deal with. In the whole area of State forest 318 fires occurred during the year, involving an area of 278 square miles. Of these fires, 50 originated in line-burning operations, 101 arose from the carelessness of outsiders or through accident, and 56 were due to fires crossing exterior fire lines. In 104 cases the origin of the fires was unknown, while the remaining 7 are attributed to intentional firing.

Exploitations and management.

107. The total value of timber and other produce removed from the Government forests by departmental agency was Rs. 1,82,070 in the Southern circle, Rs. 32,168 in the Northern circle, and Rs. 28,967 in the Berar circle. The closing of departmental operations in Balaghat led to a substantial decrease in the output of timber in the Southern circle, but there was an increase in the output of fuel owing to work undertaken in North Chanda with the object of testing the market for stacked fuel. The chief departmental timber work in this circle was the extraction of timber from the Allapilli forests and its conversion into scantlings in the saw mills. There was a good deal of wastage caused by unsound logs, and the average profit on each cubic foot of log extracted was only 4 annas, a rate so low as to point to the advisability of closing the saw mills and disposing of the timber otherwise. The sleeper operations in Balaghat, which extended over the years 1900-01 to 1906-07, brought in a total revenue of nearly $6\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs during their continuance, giving a net profit of nearly 2 lakhs. In the Northern circle, the largest works undertaken departmentally were the supply of some 10,703 cubic feet of *sâl* logs to the Jubbulpore Gun Carriage Factory and other purchasers, and of pit props and *sâj* logs to the Mohpani collieries. In the Melghat division of Berar some coupes were exploited departmentally as no purchaser was forthcoming. The volume of removals by purchasers increased considerably in the Southern circle to 1,222,186 cubic feet of timber and 7,397,004 cubic feet of fuel. A noteworthy feature of the year was the commencement of a demand for *sâj* and *haldu* in South Chanda for export to Madras. The income from minor forest produce removed by purchasers increased by Rs. 18,967

in this circle, the expansion being chiefly in the receipts from grass and grazing. The total value of the produce removed by purchasers in the Southern circle was over 5½ lakhs. In the Northern circle the quantity of timber exploited by purchasers was 896,034 cubic feet and of fuel 3,845,023 cubic feet, and the amount of revenue realised from bamboos and other minor forest produce increased by Rs. 18,421. In the Berar circle the total value of produce removed by purchasers was Rs. 6,96,621.

Financial results.

108. The net profits from the forests were Rs. 11,03,713 as against Rs. 10,00,205 in the previous year. Of this surplus the Berar circle yielded Rs. 6,31,792 or 57 per cent, the Southern circle Rs. 2,50,450 or 23 per cent, and the Northern circle Rs. 2,21,471 or 20 per cent. These satisfactory results were obtained at an increase in expenditure over the previous year of only 4 per cent.

5.—MINES AND QUARRIES.

MINES AND QUARRIES.

[Report on the working of the Indian Mines Act in the Central Provinces for the calendar year 1906.]

Mines under the Indian Mines Act.

109. The number of coal mines at the beginning of the year was the same as in 1905, *viz.*, four, but the Warora colliery was closed about the middle of the year owing to a subsidence which happily was not accompanied by any casualties. Owing to difficulties with water, the output from the new mine at Ballarpur was still small, but the collieries at Mohpani and Chandameta show increased returns, the figures being 27,503 tons for the former and 32,102 tons for the latter. The total output fell to 92,848 tons valued at Rs. 3,94,445. The decrease was due to the fact that the Warora colliery was only worked for four months during the year and produced only 32,327 tons as against over 123,000 tons in the previous year. The mines afforded employment to 1,880 labourers.

Manganese mining.

110. Twelve new mines were opened during the year and two were closed down. The total number open at the end of the year was 27, and the number of labourers employed by them was 5,154. The output was 320,759 tons, an increase of nearly 180,000 tons over the quantity extracted in the previous year. The figures given here do not include the output from and the persons employed on several shallow workings which do not technically rank as mines under the Indian Mines Act. The wholesale price at the pit's mouth averaged Rs. 4-9-3 per ton, the total value being Rs. 14,72,036. Prices rose sharply during the year. The outturn would have been greater, but for the shortage of rolling-stock on the railways, and the heavy expenses of carting in the case of mines situated at a distance from the line of rail. It is probable that the manganese industry will in the near future play an active part in determining the construction of feeder lines.

Miscellaneous.

111. There were 19 limestone quarries, but three of these were not worked, and in respect of a fourth no returns were submitted. The total outturn for the remaining 15 was 47,836 tons valued at Rs. 38,704, as compared with an outturn of 92,340 tons valued at Rs. 68,578 in the previous year. 112 tons of fuller's earth valued at Rs. 559 were also extracted from a quarry in the Jubbulpore district. The decrease in the outturn of limestone is mainly due to the competition of new quarries opened at Sutna in the Rewah State. The Sutna lime is reported to be of inferior quality to that at Katni, but the stone lies nearer the surface and is therefore more cheaply quarried. There were 12 serious accidents during the year, three of which proved fatal. Two of these latter, however, were due to causes unconnected with actual mining operations. The third, of which details were not reported, took place at the Ballarpur colliery. The remaining accidents were due to the negligence of the workers themselves.

Commercial activity.

112. There were no prosecutions under the Mining Act. Most of the mines were inspected, and their sanitation was found satisfactory. The scarcity of labourers continued, and outside labour was imported at several mines. No Mining Board has been formed within the Province, but Commissioners have been authorised to exercise within their respective divisions the functions of a Mining Board under Section 15 (3) of the Act. Forty-six prospecting licenses and

five mining leases were granted during the year. The high prices obtainable for manganese naturally led to keen competition among contractors, and most of the more accessible properties have now been secured.

6.—MANUFACTURES.

MANUFACTURES.

[Provincial Resolution on the working of the Factories Act in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1906; also Table XXX-2—5 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1906-07.]

Number of factories.

113. An apparent rise in the number of factories from 201 to 318 is almost entirely due to the registration of various small gins and presses which had not hitherto been brought under the operation of the Act. The number of factories actually opened for the first time during the year was only 9, 7 of them being cotton gins and presses, which as usual constitute over 90 per cent of the factories existing in the Province.

Employes.

114. Although Berar boasts of considerably more than two-thirds of the factories of the combined Provinces, the number of employés at work was only 16,206 in Berar as against 19,965 in the Central Provinces. The reason of this is that almost all the Berar factories are small seasonal cotton gins or presses. Children are seldom employed in Berar, but more commonly so in the Central Provinces. A conviction was obtained against a factory manager in the Nimar district for working three children over seven hours a day and before 5 a. m. It does not appear that employés are overworked or ill-treated in any place, and they are automatically protected from such a contingency by the great demand for labour of all descriptions which gives them a commanding position. Most of the factories in this Provinc are of the rural type, where methods of work are distinctly easy-going.

Health.

115. The health of the operatives and the general sanitary condition of the factories appear to be satisfactory; managers have usually been found ready to improve sanitation and to fence dangerous machinery. The number of accidents in the Central Provinces rose from 67 to 94, 2 of which were fatal, and in Berar from 27 to 43. All of these accidents were due simply to the carelessness of the injured person.

Wages.

116. The wages of unskilled labour averaged slightly higher than in 1905-06, the only district that showed any marked rise being Amraoti, where male coolies can now earn Rs. 9-8-0 per mensem in the spinning mills. The rise in the price of food-grains in Berar owing to the expansion of cotton cultivation, and also the scarcity of labour were responsible for the upward tendency of wages in that division. In the Nagpur district, in spite of the enormous demand for labour, the wages of unskilled labour remained, curiously enough, much at the same figure. The wages of skilled labour continued to rise all over the Provinces, except in the mills in the Nagpur district, where, owing to lack of trained hands as carpenters, weavers and dyers, raw recruits were taken on at reduced rates of pay. The local supply of skilled labour in all departments continued to be hopelessly inadequate.

Supervision.

117. In the Central Provinces 13 factories remained uninspected during the year. In Berar the number of inspections was more satisfactory. An Act for the inspection of steam-boilers has now been passed, and two Inspectors of Boilers and Factories for the combined Provinces have been appointed. This should conduce to much more efficient inspection in the future.

7.—TRADE.

TRADE.

[Report on the rail-borne traffic of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31st March 1907. Also Accounts of the trade carried by rail and river in India for the year 1906-07.]

Character of the crops.

118. It goes almost without saying that the trade of the Province is practically entirely dependent on the character of the harvest. The crops which influenced most materially the trade of the past year were the spring and the autumn crops of 1906. The closing months of the trade year ending on the 31st March 1907 were also affected by the prospects of the rabi harvest about to be brought to market, which was somewhat below nromal. The outturn in 1906, both of rabi

and kharif, was fair, ranging from 71 per cent of the normal for juar up to 124 per cent of the normal for broadcast rice, but it was accompanied by a substantial decrease of 287,000 acres in the rabi and of 180,000 acres in the kharif area under cultivation. The important export crops of cotton and oil-seeds were well below normal. The crops of forest produce, the chief among which are lac and myrabolams, were poor.

Prices.

119. Better crops in Northern India led to a decrease in the export of food-grains, but this diminution of export had no effect on the price of agricultural produce, which, with the single exception of cotton, which remained steady, continued to rise. The average increase per maund over the figures of last year ranged from 2 annas for juar to 9 annas for til.

Total traffic of the year.

120. The traffic returns for the year 1906-07 for the first time exclude the statistics of Sambalpur, and to this extent therefore a comparison with the figures of previous years is vitiated. While there was a slight rise of imports (3 per cent), the exports were 15 per cent below those of last year: but two-thirds of this decrease occurred in the Chhattisgarh block, and was largely due to the exclusion of Sambalpur. The total volume of trade was less by 5 million maunds than that of 1905-06, and the total value also declined by $3\frac{1}{2}$ crores.

Imports.

121. While the bulk of imports increased by 570,000 maunds or 3 per cent, the value increased by only $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs or 1 per cent, the reason being that the principal increase occurred in coal and coke, of which 400,000 more maunds were imported than in the previous year. The extension of railways and factories on the one hand and the closing of the Warora colliery on the other account for the increase. The imports of oil, nine-tenths of which is kerosine oil, rose in value from 41 to 45 lakhs. The imports of salt show a small decrease, which is somewhat remarkable in view of the successive reductions of duty: the explanation appears to lie in unwillingness on the part of wholesale dealers to replenish their stocks with the object of forcing their older stocks on retail merchants at the higher rates, and the decrease is almost certainly only of a temporary character. Sugar imports rose slightly by 4 per cent, but the imports of refined sugar from Bombay fell from 86 per cent of the total imports of refined sugar in 1905-06 to 67 per cent in 1906-07, while the United Provinces more than doubled their consignment to these Provinces. Imports of tea, which have been increasing rapidly since 1903, rose from one lakh in 1905-06 to a lakh and a half in 1906-07. The total volume of imports was 16,900,000 maunds and the total value Rs. 9,72,13,000.

Exports.

122. Exports fell by 15 per cent in weight, and by 18 per cent in value. Owing mainly to the closing of the Warora mine, exports of coal and coke fell by a half, and now amount to only 15,000 tons as compared with 83,000 tons six years ago. Exports of raw cotton fell by 19 per cent below the abnormally high figures of 1905-06: this was the natural consequence of less favourable crops. The decrease in value amounted to $2\frac{1}{4}$ crores. The export of fodder continued to increase, but there was a fall of over four million maunds, or 39 per cent, in the exports of grain and pulse owing to the better conditions prevalent in Northern India. There was a proportionate decrease in the exports of gram and pulse, of which over one and a quarter million maunds less were exported. Juar exports fell by a half, but rice showed a substantial increase of nearly 600,000 maunds. The export of wheat shrank by nearly three million maunds or more than one-half. Hemp shows a slight decline, which is partly due to careless cleaning or adulteration. Oil-seeds declined by almost one and a half million maunds or 38 per cent. Lac and myrabolams fell by 50 and 34 per cent respectively owing to poor crops. The most remarkable increase in exports is under the head metals, which rose from under six million to over nine million maunds. Six and three-quarter millions of the latter figure consist of manganese. The export of raw cattle-hides declined slightly from the extraordinarily high figures of 1905-06, but that of the skins of sheep, goats, &c., continued to expand. The total weight of exports was 30,317,000 maunds and their value Rs. 16,31,46,000. The balance of exports over imports (excluding treasure and animals) fell from 10 to $6\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees.

8.—PUBLIC WORKS.

PUBLIC WORKS.

[Finance Accounts of the Buildings and Roads Branch of the Public Works Department, Central Provinces, for 1906-07, also Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India for 1906-07.]

IMPERIAL WORKS.

123. No Imperial works of great importance were taken in hand during the year. Work at the Warora colliery ceased altogether on the 30th April 1906. Two pits were sunk and connected at the Ballarpur colliery, and operations were commenced for opening out the seams, while various necessary buildings in connection with the mine were completed. At Jubbulpore, the private building in which the Post Office is located was purchased for Rs. 22,000. Two or three new post offices were built at various places, while a bungalow costing over Rs. 19,000 was completed for the Deputy Postmaster-General at Nagpur. A site was acquired and materials collected for a Postal Audit Office at Nagpur, but the work was stopped under the orders of the Government of India. **Public Works.**

PROVINCIAL WORKS.

124. The total expenditure on Provincial works of all kinds amounted to Rs. 48,71,181, of which Rs. 23,96,660 were spent on original works, and the remainder on repairs and establishment.

The following were the principal objects of expenditure :—

125. Office buildings for the Conservator of Forests at Amraoti and for the Divisional Forest Officers at Chikalda and Yeotmal were in progress during the year, the expenditure on the first named amounting to over Rs. 21,500. A bungalow for the Forest Divisional Officer, North Chanda, was almost completed at a cost of over Rs. 8,700. **Forest Buildings.**

126. The second extension to the office of the Comptroller, Nagpur, which was commenced last year, was practically completed at a total expenditure of Rs. 35,800. **Administration, Treasury and Currency Buildings.**

127. The new Tahsilis at Bemetara, Baloda and Sehora, and the extension of the old Tahsili at Chhindwara were completed. Improvements were made to the Tahsil buildings at Raipur and Murwara, while Rs. 5,500 were spent on extensions to the Pachmarhi Tahsili. Nearly Rs. 16,000 went to the construction of a new Tahsili at Warora, while quarters were built for Tahsil officials at various places. The Veterinary Dispensary at Seoni was completed at a cost of Rs. 5,500, and progress was made with the construction of the Veterinary Dispensary at Pachmarhi. Fifteen bonded warehouses were either completed or in progress during the year, and materials were collected for others. **Revenue Buildings.**

128. Good progress was made with the new Secretariat building which was commenced in 1904. The greater part of the brick work of the inner walls is now finished, and a great deal of cut-stone work has been done. Rolled steel floor beams have been erected, and about one-quarter of the floors of the ground floor has been laid : the laying of concrete floors for the first floor has been commenced. An expenditure of over Rs. 1,80,000 was incurred during the year. Improvements costing Rs. 7,500 were made to the Residency at Pachmarhi. **Secretariat Offices and Residencies.**

129. Nearly Rs. 29,000 were expended on an Experimental Farm and Dutch barn at Akola. The Labandih Farm at Raipur was extended, and Rs. 11,250 were spent on additional farm buildings at Powarkhera. **Agricultural.**

130. The High School at Saugor was improved, and Rs. 5,000 were spent upon a new High School at Raipur. Over Rs. 24,000 were devoted to the Female Normal School at Jubbulpore and the buildings connected with it. Girls' schools were completed or in progress at seven other towns. More than half a lakh of rupees was spent in Berar in construction work on various Normal and Anglo-Vernacular schools and hostels or other buildings connected with them. In the Victoria Technical Institute at Nagpur the fitting up of the lecture rooms and of the chemical and physical laboratories was nearly completed at a cost of some Rs. 15,000, while Rs. 10,000 were spent on a laboratory and on certain other additions and improvements to the science rooms in the Government College at Jubbulpore. **Educational.**

Circuit-houses.

131. The new Circuit-house at Jubbulpore was finally completed at a total cost of Rs. 58,800.

High Courts and District Courts.

132. The District Court-house at Drug with its subsidiary buildings was completed at a cost of a little under two lakhs. The new Civil Court at Damoh was practically completed at a cost of half a lakh. Work to an aggregate value of about one and a quarter lakhs was done on new Civil Courts at Nagpur, Hoshangabad, Bilaspur, Khamgaon and Buldana, while Rs. 15,000 were spent at Akola and Rs. 21,500 at Amraoti in converting existing buildings into Civil Courts. Munsiffs' Courts were completed or in progress at Sehora, Darwha and Multai. It will be seen that the year has been one of great activity as regards the construction of Civil Courts: a large programme was necessitated by the separation of the executive and the judicial establishments of District Offices. Courts for the Commissioners were commenced at Nagpur and at Amraoti, the expenditure during the year at the latter place being Rs. 11,000. Railings to the value of over Rs. 43,000 were purchased for the enclosure of various Courts at Nagpur. The Deputy Commissioners' offices at Chanda and Akola were also enlarged.

Jails.

133. The new lock-up at Drug was completed. Quarters for Jail officials were constructed at Raipur and Bilaspur. Extensive repair work was carried out at Hoshangabad. Various other improvements were effected at various jails, particularly at Amraoti, where an expenditure of Rs. 13,000 was incurred.

Police Buildings.

134. Owing to the extensive re-organization of the Police, the construction programme in that department was an extremely heavy one. The Head-quarters Police buildings at Drug were completed at a cost of Rs. 48,000. The introduction of the new Station-house system in the Raipur and Drug districts necessitated a large number of station-houses and quarters being taken in hand, and, in spite of difficulties in procuring labour and of the remoteness of many of the localities, good progress was made, nearly Rs. 38,000 being expended on various buildings at sixteen different towns or villages in those districts. Station-houses, lines or quarters were also in process of erection at twenty-three other places in various districts. Rs. 8,500 were spent on the new Reserve lines at Amraoti, on which over Rs. 40,000 have now been expended: residential quarters costing Rs. 5,000 were also constructed at the same place for the European Police Sergeant and the Head-quarters Inspector. At Nagpur, among other works, quarters were provided for two European Police Sergeants, and an additional Rs. 13,000 went towards the completion of the new City Kotwali. In the Chanda district over Rs. 6,000 were spent on various buildings: Rs. 23,000 were devoted to quarters for Reserve Inspectors at Yeotmal, Akola and Buldana, and over Rs. 10,000 to a new Police office at Mandla. Rs. 8,000 were expended in completing a bungalow for the District Superintendent of Police at Balaghat.

Hospitals, Dispensaries and Asylums.

135. An operating theatre at Raipur and a second class mortuary at Burhanpur were completed, and improvements and additions were made to the Dispensary at Drug. Quarters were completed for the Civil Surgeons at Drug and Chhindwara.

Miscellaneous Public Works Buildings.

136. Rs. 10,500 were expended in extending the Secretariat Press. The Telinkheri earthenware irrigation pipe line was put in order over half its length and break pressure tanks provided at a charge of over Rs. 16,000. New bungalows were provided at Nagpur for the Examiner and for the Assistant Examiner for Public Works Accounts and for the Assistant Comptroller. Four other bungalows were under construction, while materials were collected for four more. Over Rs. 41,000 were spent in the construction of several blocks of Clerks' quarters. Additions to the value of over Rs. 5,000 were made to the Mul Irrigation Office at Chanda, where also quarters were built for various subordinate officials of the Public Works Department. At Baihar, Rs. 6,500 were spent on similar quarters and upon a Sub-Divisional office. A Sub-Divisional office was also constructed at Buldana and an existing building was converted into an office at Akola. Quarters were completed or in progress for the Executive Engineers at Jubbulpore and Akola, for the Assistant Engineer at Akola, and for the Sub-Divisional Officer at Balaghat, and a private bungalow was purchased as a residence for the Executive

Engineer of Saugor for Rs. 6,300. An outlay of Rs. 10,500 provided quarters for the superior clerical staff at Pachmarhi.

Communications.

137. The total outlay on roads was Rs. 8,09,470 for original works and Rs. 11,67,413 for repairs. Rapid progress was made in providing good service tracks, culverts and causeways in the new district of Drug. The second section of the Rajnandgaon-Antagarh road was completed at a cost of half a lakh. Considerable progress was made with the construction of causeways and culverts on the Simga-Kawardha and Drug-Dhamda-Bemetara roads and with that of the roads from Bhatapara to Chandkhuri and from Lormi to Pandaria. The Arang-Khariar road was completed as Class I up to the headquarters of the new Mahasamund Tahsil, and as Class II-A along its remaining length. In Jubbulpore, Rs. 22,000 were spent in completing the Sihora-Singrampur road, and in Mandla the metalling of the Mandla-Bamni section of the road to Seoni was almost completed. Railway feeder roads in Seoni were well advanced. Rs. 13,000 went towards the raising of the Saugor-Cawnpore road in class, Rs. 40,000 on similarly raising the Narsinghpur-Chhindwara road, and over Rs. 30,000 on improving the steep gradients on the Piparia-Pachmarhi road. Rs. 40,000 and Rs. 25,000 were spent on the roads from Burhanpur to Dhertalai and from Badnur to Ellichpur respectively. In the Bhandara division, work was greatly hampered by the difficulty of securing labour owing to the competition of manganese mines but nevertheless nearly Rs. 8,000 were spent on the construction of culverts and causeways on the Gondia-Arjuni road, over Rs. 28,000 on the raising in class of the Lamta-Baihar road, and nearly Rs. 11,000 on the first section of the Baihar-Topla road, while a certain amount of progress was made with other works. In Chanda, over Rs. 60,000 worth of work was done on the Chanda-Allapilli road, while about Rs. 14,000 and Rs. 10,000 were spent on the Allapilli-Sironcha and Allapilli-Murramgaon roads respectively. A further sum of Rs. 10,000 odd was spent on the Dhamtari-Murramgaon road, and a considerable amount was also devoted to causeways and irrigation drains upon other roads in this division. In Berar, about Rs. 43,000 were spent on metalling various roads, while nearly Rs. 92,000 were spent on new roads from Ellichpur to Betul, Anjangaon to Akot, Sambhado to Dharni, Darwha to Karanja and Darwha to Digras. In the Civil Station of Nagpur a new central road towards Telinkheri was taken in hand, and many roads were widened.

Several Inspection Bungalows were erected along the new lines of road. A new Dâk Bungalow was completed at Damoh, and another was in progress at Bina, while over Rs 3,000 were spent in re-roofing the Rest-house at Amraoti.

Nearly Rs. 18,000 were devoted to roadside tree-planting and to the maintenance of nurseries.

Incorporated Local Funds.

138. Rupees 12,000 were spent in the Nagpur District in completing roads from Anjani to Sonegaon and from Ambajheri to Hingna. In Bhandara a sum of over Rs. 5,000 went towards the construction of the Pauni-Lakhandur road. In Chanda, over Rs 18,000 worth of work was done on the District Council roads from Garhchiroli to Chimur, from Chimur to Mul, from Mendki to Talodhi and from Brahmapuri to Gewardha. In East Berar over Rs. 6,000 were spent on school improvements, and nearly Rs. 14,500 on improving the roads from Daryapur to Anjangaon and from Anjangaon to Ellichpur. Some Rs. 17,500 were expended in West Berar on various school buildings, dispensaries, causeways, bazaar chabutras and wells. In Damoh over Rs. 4,000 were devoted to improvements on the Abhana-Tejgarh road. A new road was put in hand from Hoshangabad to Badrabhan, and the Ramnagar-Ghugri road in Mandla, the Khandwa-Pandhana road in Nimar, and the Gadarwara-Sainkhera road in Narsinghpur were all improved.

Contributions.

139 Nearly Rs. 29,000 were spent on the construction of the Victoria Technical Institute at Amraoti. Extensive improvements and additions were carried out at the Victoria Hospital, Jubbulpore.

The distribution system of the Seoni Water-works was completed at a cost of Rs. 8,700, and another Rs. 10,000 were spent on enlarging the catchment area of the Babaria Reservoir. The drainage area of the Kalapani tank at Amraoti was extended. Drains were constructed at Akola and Basim, the

expenditure at the former town amounting to nearly Rs. 8,500. Dispensaries were completed or in progress at Chanda, Dhaba and Pandhurna, and a female ward was added to the Hatta Dispensary. The public garden at Chanda was completed during the year.

Special Famine Surveys.

140. Extensive road surveys were conducted in Chanda, Balaghat, and West Berar, and also in the Nerbudda and Jubbulpore civil divisions.

IRRIGATION.

9.—IRRIGATION.

[Season and Crop Report of the Central Provinces for 1906-07, and the Administration Report of the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department for 1906-07.]

Area under irrigation.

141. The favourable monsoon of 1906 involved a natural shrinkage of the area under irrigation, which in the Central Provinces only amounted to 528,000 acres during the year under report. In Berar, where irrigation is mostly confined to garden crops, the area increased by 8,200 acres.

State irrigation works.

142. The amount of irrigation done from State irrigation works was unfavourably affected by the plentiful rainfall of the year, but there was nevertheless some increase in the acreage irrigated. 4,893 acres were irrigated from State tanks, and a further area of 3,822 acres from grant-in-aid tanks. The mean water-rate secured was Rs. 1-8-0 per acre as compared with Rs. 1-5-0 in the previous year, but in many cases water was given free or at less than full rates as an encouragement and an object-lesson, so that actual realizations only amounted to Rs. 6,465, although the value of the irrigation done was approximately Rs. 20,000. Cultivators at present prefer a low all-round crop-rate to a fixed rate per watering, and the crop-rate system has therefore for the present been adopted as the most likely method of popularising irrigation. Water-rates as high as Rs. 4 per acre have been secured for wheat and rice in particular places, and there is every indication that people will irrigate freely, as soon as they realise the value of irrigation. Special attention was paid during the year to the gauging of rainfall, tanks and streams, and the estimation of the percentages of run-off of the rainfall on catchment areas.

Major Works.

143. The total expenditure upon protective major irrigation works amounted to 10$\frac{1}{3}$ lakhs, over a lakh of this being the cost of survey of village works for the famine programme. The most important work under investigation was the Mahanadi canal project; great progress was made in the collection of complete information regarding the available supply, and the project will be ready for submission at the end of 1907. Of major works under construction, the Khyrbandha tank was completed at a total cost of over 2$\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs. Good progress was made with most other works, except in Chanda and Nagpur, where competition arising from railway extension and the manganese industry has seriously affected the supply of labour available. The construction of the Ramtek reservoir in the Nagpur district, which is estimated to cost 13 lakhs, was commenced in October 1906, but was somewhat delayed by the necessity of substituting an earthen dam for one of masonry, owing to the nature of the underlying rock.

Minor Works.

144. The total expenditure on minor works was rather more than 3$\frac{1}{3}$ lakhs. 1$\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs out of this amount were spent on improving and constructing minor irrigation works, exclusive of field embankments and grant-in-aid works. Sixty-three minor works were in progress in ryotwari and malguzari villages, while in addition 41 grant-in-aid works were under construction. Out of Rs. 37,000 spent in this latter class of works during the year, Rs. 22,000 were contributed by Government. The total expenditure on field embankments was only Rs. 33,000 as compared with Rs. 76,000 in the preceding year, and this reduced figure indicates that most of the more favourable sites for these works in Saugor and Damoh have already been utilised. Seven new embankments were taken in hand during the year, while 39 were completed, and work was continued upon 16 others already in progress at the beginning of the year.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

[Further details and statistics will be found in the Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India for the year 1906-07.]

GROSS REVENUE.

145. The following statement compares the receipts, expenditure and closing balance under the various heads of account of the Central Provinces and Berar together for the years 1905-06 and 1906-07 :— **Gross Revenue.**

Heads.	Receipts.		Expenditure.		Closing balance.	
	1905-06.	1906-07.	1905-06.	1906-07.	1905-06.	1906-07.
	Rs.	Rs,	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imperial Revenues ...	1,58,99,622	1,26,25 653	81,21,177	38,91,285	..	...
Provincial Revenues ...	(a)1,60,45,275	2,07,57,188	(a)1,28,10,275	1,90,01,495	40,35,000	57,90,693
Local Funds—						
Incorporated ...	30,24,115	25,70,503	28,99,461	23,94,913	14,63,296	16,38,886
Excluded ...	5,89,747	7,64,848	5.74,118	6,61,487	2,34,194	3,37,555
Municipal Revenues ...	18,59,021	20,03,767	18,14,056	18,62,492	6,77,497	8,18,772
Total ...	3,74,17,780	3,87,21,959	2,62,19,087	2,78,11,672	64,09,987	85,85,906

(a) The Receipts and expenditure under "Provincial Revenues" in 1905-06 do not include Berar figures, as they were Imperial and included under "Imperial Revenues."

(a) IMPERIAL REVENUE.

146. The following statement compares the actuals of the two years 1905-06 and 1906-07. The Major heads under which striking differences have occurred are given in detail:— **Imperial Revenue.**

Revenue and Receipts.	Actuals.		Expenditure.	Actuals.	
	1905-06.	1906-07.		1905-06.	1906-07.
	Rs,	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Land Revenue. { Proper ...	1,25,63,415	85,36,653	Assignments and Compensations.	25,60,215	25,41,373
Land Revenue. { Adjustment ...	—74,23.792	—38,12,129	Excise ...	1,22,129	1,19 072
Opium ...	3,07.789	4,70,042	General Administration ...	1,77,113	1,29,465
Stamp ...	13,39,824	12,30,239	Ecclesiastical ...	74,566	77,393
Excise ...	62.40,471	41,62 284	Other heads ...	51,87,154	10,23,982
Forest ...	15,82.866	12,00,580			
Tributes ...	2.31,037	2,03,537			
Other heads ...	10,58,012	5,44,447			
Total ...	1,58,99,622	1,26,25,653	Total ...	81,21,177	38,91,285

147. LAND REVENUE.—*Imperial share one-half.*—The decrease in "Land Revenue—Proper" was due to the revenue of Berar having been wholly Imperial during 1905-06 and the decrease in the adjustment to the initial contribution of Rs. 3,00,000 having been included in the figure for the same year.

148. CANAL REVENUE.—There is no Canal Revenue in this Province.

SOURCES OF IMPERIAL REVENUE OTHER THAN LAND.

149. OPIUM.—*Imperial.*—The increase was due to the introduction of Ghazipur opium in Berar districts.

150. EXCISE.—*Imperial share one-half.*—Although there was an increase in the total revenue for the year 1906-07 on account of the extension of the contract supply system in the Province and the consequent keen competition at auctions, there is a decrease under the Imperial figures because in 1905-06 the whole of the Berer revenue and three-quarters of that of the Central Provinces were credited to Imperial Revenues.

151. SALT.—*Imperial.*—There is no revenue in this Province under this head. The receipts on account of Northern India and Baragora salts are passed on to the Government of India and of Bombay respectively.

152. STAMPS.—*Imperial share one-half.*—Outbreak of plague in some of the districts caused the decrease in the revenue under this head.

153. FOREST.—*Imperial share one-half.*—The decrease was chiefly on account of the full revenue of Berar being shown under Imperial in the figure for 1905-06.

154. TRIBUTES.—*Imperial.*—The increase was due to one instalment for 1905-06 and one for 1907-08 having been paid by the Nandgaon State during 1906-07.

On the expenditure side the decrease under "*Assignments and Compensations*" was due to half of the expenditure except "*Miscellaneous Compensations*" having been borne by the Provincial Government. The decrease under "*Excise*" and "*General Administration*" was due to the expenditure of Berar having been wholly Imperial during 1905-06. The increase under "*Ecclesiastical*" was due to revised rates of pay drawn by the Chaplains.

Provincial Revenue.

The variations under other heads of revenue and expenditure were mainly due to distribution of Berar figures between Imperial and Provincial during 1906-07.

(*b*) REVENUE AND FINANCE OTHER THAN IMPERIAL.

155. As the receipts and expenditure of Berar, which were formerly shown as *Imperial*, are this year for the first time amalgamated with those of the Central Provinces and shown under the head 'Provincial,' the tabular comparison between the figures of 1906-07 and of 1905-06 given below is of little practical value. The causes of variations in the total actuals of the Central Provinces and Berar for the two years under some of the major heads where striking differences have occurred are explained below:—

Revenue and Receipts.	Actuals.		Expenditure.	Actuals.	
	1905-06.	1906-07.		1905-06.	1906-07.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Opening Balance ...	8,00,000	40,35,000			
			Land Revenue ...	14,27,492	33,46,191
			Excise ...	24 099	1,19 072
			Forests ...	5,26,177	6,71,439
Land Revenue. { Proper ...	42,93,469	85,36,653	Law and Justice—Courts of Law.	12.93,814	20,22,938
{ Adjustment ...	74,23,792	38,12,129			
Stamps ...	12,23,833	12,30,239	Law and Justice—Jails ...	5,28,173	5,11,843
Excise ...	9,58,919	41,62,284	Police ...	17,09,950	25,84 278
Provincial rates ...	52,553	...	Education ...	5,99,022	8,88,276
Forests ...	8,66,265	12,00,580	Medical ...	3,85,479	5 40,900
Interest ...	67,374	88,057	Scientific and other Minor Departments.	2,20,021	2,61,119
Law and Justice—Jails ...	2,24,786	1,97,268			
Scientific and other Minor Departments. ...	42,042	54,124	Stationery and Printing ...	2,39.481	3,02,685
			Miscellaneous ...	1,23.353	82,843
Miscellaneous ...	1,35,215	2,16,999	Civil Works—Civil ...	23,922	56,001
Civil Works—P. W. D. ...	1,18,360	1,42,368	Do. P. W. D. ...	37.28,398	52,09.122
Contributions from Local Funds ...	1,76 403	1,78,129	Contribution to Local Funds ...	6,09,590	7,27,106
Other heads ...	4,62,264	9,38,358	Other heads ...	13,71,304	16,77,682
Total ...	1,60,45,275	2,07,57,188	Total ...	1,28,10,275	1,90,01,495
			Closing Balance ...	40,35,000	57,90,693
Grand Total ...	1,68,45,275	2,47,92,188	Grand Total ...	1,68,45,275	2,47,92,188

156. PROVINCIAL REVENUE.—The variations under *Divided Heads* have been explained in the section "*Imperial Revenue and Finance*" while those under other heads are given below.

157. There was remarkable increase under the following heads of revenue :—*Interest*, *Scientific and other Minor Departments*, *Miscellaneous* and *Civil Works* (*Public Works Department*), while the two heads *Provincial Rates* and *Law and Justice—Jails* showed decrease. The increase under *Interest* was due to large recoveries of interest on loans to cultivators; under "*Scientific and other Minor Departments*" to the opening of an Experimental Farm at Akola and to higher receipts from other farms; under "*Miscellaneous*" to unusually heavy lapses of deposits and large recoveries from Municipalities on account of fees for Government audit, and under "*Civil Works*" to higher receipts on account of Rent of Buildings, Ferry Collections and Fines, Refunds and Miscellaneous. The decrease under "*Provincial Rates*" was due to the transfer of the receipts on account of cesses to Local and under "*Jails*" to the non-supply of uniforms to the Police Department by the Akola Central Jail and to the adjustment of recoveries of arrears in 1905-06 on account of supplies to the Military Department in the previous year.

On the expenditure side there was remarkable increase under the following heads:—*Excise, Law and Justice—Courts of Law, Police, Education and Civil Works*. The following heads showed a fall in the expenditure :—*Land Revenue, Law and Justice—Jails and Miscellaneous*. The increase under "*Excise*" and "*Police*" was due to re-organization of those Departments, under "*Law and Justice—Courts of Law*" to (1) the pay of the Judicial Extra-Assistant Commissioners in the Central Provinces having been debited in full to this head instead of in moieties, to (2) the separation of the Judicial and Executive establishments, and to (3) the transfer of charges for Executive officers of Berar from Land Revenue. The creation of an High School, Girls' Schools, appointment of a Professor of Chemistry and Physics with necessary staff for the Victoria Technical Institute and large payments of grants to European Schools chiefly account for the increase under "*Education.*" The figures under "*Land Revenue*" show an increase on account of the exclusion of the Berar figures from the actuals of 1905-06, while there is a decrease on account of the separation of the Judicial and Executive establishments as explained in dealing with "*Courts of Law*" above. The decrease under "*Jails*" was due to a fall in the Jail population and to the introduction of stone-breaking and aloe-pounding as the only manufactures in District Jails, a circumstance which reduced expenditure on account of purchase of raw materials. The decrease under "*Miscellaneous*" was due to a fall in the expenditure on remittance on account of heavy payment of supply bills, less expenditure for rewards for destruction of wild animals and to smaller amounts of loans to cultivators having been written off by the Local Administration. The increase under "*Civil Works* (*Public Works Department*)" was due to larger outlay on Civil Buildings and Communications, and under "*Contributions*" to payment of contributions to District Councils for education and general purposes.

158. LOCAL FUNDS.—These funds comprise Incorporated and Excluded Local Funds. The income, expenditure and the opening and closing balances of the Incorporated Local Funds for the year 1906-07 were as follows :—

Name of the Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Expenditure.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
District Fund	14,55,633	25,68,020	40,23,653	23,93,836	16,29,817
Patwari Fund	120	...	120	120	...
Inland Labour Transport Fund ...	7,543	2,483	10,026	957	9,069
Total ...	14,63,296	25,70,503	40,33,799	23,94,913	16,38,886

159. ROAD AND EDUCATION CESSES.—These cesses form the most important source of the income of District Funds and amounted to Rs. 4,24,502 and Rs. 3,16,266 against Rs. 3,60,944 and Rs. 3,19,127 in 1905-06. The increase under Road Cess was due to better collection in 1906-07. Another important source of income of these funds is contributions from Government which amounted to Rs. 7,27,106 against Rs. 7,12,294 in 1905-06.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

160. EXCLUDED LOCAL FUNDS.—These are Cantonments, Cantonment Dispensaries, Town and Bazar Funds, Police Remount Fund, Dispensary Fund, Museum Fund, Famine Orphan Charitable Fund, Taluk Fund (Melghat) and Grain and Cotton Market Funds. The total transactions and the balances are shown in the statement under "Gross Revenue."

161. MUNICIPAL REVENUE.—The transaction and the balances of the Municipal Funds are also shown in the statement under "Gross Revenue."

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES.

1.—DETAILS OF CENSUS.

DETAILS OF CENSUS.

162. An account of the above subject will be found on pages 31—52 of the Report on the Administration of the Central Provinces for 1901-02, and on pages 22—25 of the Report on the Administration of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts for the same year.

2.—BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1906 and Table XIII—2-13 of the Judicial and Administration Statistics of British India for 1906-07.]

System of registration.

163. No change was made in the system of registration during the year. The deduced population at the end of 1906 was 12,851,733, an increase of 967,393, or 8·14 per cent, over the census enumeration of 1901. Native Superintendents of Vaccination have done less verification of vital statistics than in the previous year. Though there continues to be a fair number of discrépancies between the returns of the kotwars and those of the police, it would seem that the vital statistics are very fairly accurate as to totals, though they are very unreliable as to details of diseases. Many deaths from specific diseases of various kinds are lumped together under 'Fever' or 'Other causes'. It is a question, however, if the statistics, such as they are, are sufficiently fully employed for purposes of analysis and deduction. The proposal referred to last year to set aside certain areas for detailed scrutiny of the registration of vital statistics by a specially trained staff has been unavoidably postponed owing to the prevalence of plague.

Births.

164. The total number of births registered in the province fell from 642,199 in 1905 to 614,616, and the birth-rate from 54·02 to 51·72. Epidemics of plague and cholera were responsible for the decline, but even this reduced birth-rate is among the highest recorded during the past 25 years, and was above the decennial mean in all districts. The birth-rate of the province has, for the past ten years, been higher than that of any province in India. The number of births exceeded that of deaths by 98,003. The rural birth-rate is, as usual, much higher than the urban.

Deaths.

165. The year was one of delayed and heavy rainfall following on a comparatively dry year, a conjunction that tends to deterioration in the public health. The death-rate, which was the highest in India, rose to 43·47 *per mille* as against 37·21. Both epidemic and non-epidemic mortality was heavy. Cholera claimed nearly 39,000 victims and was particularly rife in Berar, while plague took a toll of over 18,000 lives, and accounted for 21 deaths *per mille* in Nagpur. Saugor and Damoh, which were invaded by large bodies of immigrants from Bundelkhand, had also heavy death-rates. Some 40 per cent of the total deaths of the year were attributed to fever, but, as remarked above, this figure is greatly swelled by the wrong inclusion of other diseases under this head. There was a small decrease in infant mortality.

Chief diseases.

166. The severe outbreak of cholera alluded to above was traced to the Kumbh Mela at Allahabad and to the Pandharpur Fair in Bombay. The disease was freely epidemic from March to October and was greatly exacerbated in the month of August, when 16,000 deaths occurred. It was worst in Berar, where over 21,000 deaths took place. Plague was rife in Nagpur City during the first half of the year, and spread to Kamptee and other towns of the district in the latter half. Among the other districts Akola and Buldana suffered most severely. Smallpox has been more prevalent during the past two years, and this is ascribed, probably with correctness, to the hindrance to vaccination created by the presence of plague and cholera.

Special measures.

167. Cholera was combated by the issue of cholera medicines to the Vaccination staff, aided by specially deputed Assistant Surgeons and Hospital Assistants, and by the permanganate of potash treatment of the water-supply. As regards plague, disinfection was generally abandoned as useless and harassing, but

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

evacuation was resorted to freely and effectually. Extensive rat-killing operations were put in motion, and, especially in Nagpur City, appeared to give beneficial results in limiting the area and intensity of outbreaks, but it is too early to form any final conclusions on the subject. Municipal Committees and District Councils were most instrumental in the conduct of these operations and were guided by specially deputed officers. Finally, most hopeful progress was made with inoculation, nearly 6,000 persons passing through the hands of the inoculators and with highly satisfactory results. More systematic operations in this respect will be conducted this year. Thirty-seven snake-bite cases were treated either with antivenene or permanganate of potash, and, save where the patients attended the dispensary after too long an interval, the results were most efficacious. The permanganate treatment appears to be growing popular, and a considerable demand has arisen for snake-bite lancets.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

3.—EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

[Report on Inland Emigration of the Central Provinces for the year ending 30th June 1907, and Table XXXV-4 of the Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India for 1906-07.]

Emigration.

168. The prosperity of the year had the natural result of administering a strong check to emigration. Labourers could earn Rs. 6 to 8 locally, and therefore the minimum wage of Rs. 5 promised them by agents formed no inducement to them to emigrate to Assam. Only 1,395 persons emigrated as against 3,690 in the preceding year. Garden-sardars were particularly unsuccessful: it took two sardars to recruit one coolie, and in fact the sardar seems more inclined to stay in the recruiting district than the coolie to accompany the sardar to Assam. Jubbulpore, Raipur, and Bilaspur continued to be the chief recruiting grounds.

Health of emigrants.

169. Depôts and places of accommodation were regularly inspected during the year and found to be in a satisfactory condition. Sanitary rules were generally observed. No epidemic occurred in any of the depôts.

Working of Act VI of 1901.

170. There was a general increase of prosecutions, especially against garden-sardars in the Bilaspur District. This was due to the good harvest, the sardars being reluctant to leave their people in a time of prosperity and return to the gardens.

Financial.

171. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 2,076, registration fees contributing most of this total. The expenditure of the year came to Rs. 729-12-0, this representing the pay and allowances of the registration clerks.

MEDICAL RELIEF.

4.—MEDICAL RELIEF.

[Notes on the Annual Statements of the Government Charitable Dispenaries in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1906, and Table XIV—2-6 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for the year 1906-07.]

Number of dispensaries.

172. There were 256 dispensaries at work at the close of the year. Of these 29 were maintained by the State, 145 from Local Funds, and the balance consisted of private or railway dispensaries. Twenty-eight new dispensaries were opened during the year, 7 were closed, while 11 were reclassified owing to their transfer to the management of Dispensary Committees.

Number of patients.

173 The number of patients increased by 48,684 to 1,672,706, of whom all but a little over 12,000 were out-door patients. Plague and cholera caused a decrease of attendance in some districts, but, except for this, the increase was general. The attendance of females was on the whole satisfactory. The ratio of deaths among indoor patients rose to 7·81 per cent, the increase being most probably due to many of the patients being already in a moribund state when brought to the dispensaries.

Private dispensaries.

174. Private dispensaries treated over 21,000 more patients than in 1905 and continued to do good work. Their number increased by one.

Relative frequency of diseases.

175. The ailments for which relief was chiefly sought were malarial fevers, diseases of the eye, diseases of the respiratory and digestive systems, ulcers and other skin diseases. A good many cholera cases were also treated. Lathyrism seems to have practically disppeared.

MEDICAL RELIEF.

176. The number of surgical operations rose very slightly to 41,044. Most of these were trivial in nature. The number of selected operations was 1,857, or 173 more than in the previous year, the chief being extraction of lens for cataract, operating for stone, obstetric operations and amputations. **Surgical operations.**

177. The total receipts amounted to over 5½ lakhs, or more than half a lakh better than in the previous year. The increase was due to larger contributions from Government and from Local Bodies and also to more liberal subscriptions from natives. These latter increased by about Rs. 5,000. **Income.**

178. The total expenditure fell by a little to Rs. 3,49,341, the decrease being mainly due to the fact that some Rs. 27,000 less were spent on buildings and repairs. The year closed with a cash balance of Rs. 2,02,391. **Expenditure.**

5.—TREATMENT OF THE INSANE.

TREATMENT OF THE INSANE.

[Notes on the Annual Statements of the Lunatic Asylums in the Central Provinces for the year 1906, and Table XV—2-8 of the Judicial and Administrative Statictics of British India for 1906-07.]

179. There were 258 criminal and 89 non-criminal lunatics in the Nagpur and Jubbulpore Asylums, or altogether 11 fewer than in the preceding year. **Numbers and health.**

The deaths numbered 31 as against 29 in the previous year, the chief causes of mortality being old age and epilepsy. The year was comparatively unhealthy in the Nagpur Asylum, where there were 25 deaths, but the health of the inmates of the Jubbulpore Asylum was generally good.

180. More attention appears to have been paid in tracing the cause of insanity in Jubbulpore, where one-eighth of the new admissions were returned as from "Unknown" causes, while in Nagpur the proportion of "Unknown" causes was one-fifth of the total admissions. Ganja-smoking, drink, heredity and epilepsy are the principal ascertained causes of lunacy. **Investigation of causes.**

181. The average cost per head in Nagpur was Rs. 97 or Rs. 11 less than in the previous year; while in Jubbulpore it was Rs. 78 per head, or Rs. 2 more than that of 1905, the increase being due to the enhanced allowance paid to the Deputy Superintendent and to a rise in the prices of food-grains. **Expenditure.**

182. As in the previous year the inmates of the Nagpur Asylum were engaged in garden, dairy, and farm-work. At Jubbulpore the lunatics were employed partly in manufacturing clothing and bedding and partly in gardening. There was a total profit of about Rs. 5,000 on account of manufactures. Additional wards are under construction at Nagpur in view of a project of removing all female lunatics to that asylum. **Industries and improvements.**

6.—SANITATION.

SANITATION.

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces for the year 1906, and Table XIII—2-13 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1906-07.]

183. Rs. 14,000 were spent on water-works by the Seoni Municipality and smaller sums at Nagpur and Akola. No large sanitary works were undertaken by the Department of Public Works, but the period was one of fairly active preparation for drainage schemes to be undertaken in the not remote future. Nagpur, Wardha, Seoni, Bilaspur, Khandwa and Burhanpur all have ambitious drainage schemes, inovlving considerable expenditure, in various stages of preparation. The pushing on of water-supply schemes in towns devoid of any drainage system has been found to be accompanied by increased mortality, which may not improbably be due to a rise in the sub-soil water-level. **Chief sanitary works.**

184. Considerable sums were spent on drainage by various municipalities, the expenditure in Akola alone amounting to over Rs. 26,000. District Headquarters muncipalities spent some 40 per cent of their gross income on sanitary works. Close attention was paid by nearly all municipalities to the protection and improvement of the water-supply. In Nagpur, the area of supply was extended, and money was also freely spent on the erection of latrines, market improvements, and slaughter-house extensions. At Badnur, and in a less organized fashion in some other municipalities, a commencement was made with antimalarial operations, but it is as yet too early to judge of the results. In **Municipal sanitation.**

SANITATION.

Rural sanitation.

Saugor, much-needed improvements were made in the Bamankheri slaughter-houses, which are the seat of a large jerked-meat and hide industry.

185. The provisions of the Village Sanitation Act were extended to seven more villages and withdrawn from one. The bulk of the funds raised under the Act was expended, as usual, in clearing village sites and general conservancy, and to a minor degree on drains and roads. The expenditure on water-supply was small, but funds are often too exiguous to admit of much being done in this direction. The Sanitary Board held meetings at the head-quarters of all but three districts, and a good many wells were built or repaired under its direction, mostly from District Funds, though in a few districts private persons contributed largely. Proposals for the reconstitution of a Sanitary Board upon more practical lines have been called for from the Sanitary Commissioner.

VACCINATION.

7.—VACCINATION.

[Note on Vaccination in the Central Provinces for 1906-07, and Table XVI—2-8 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1906-07.]

General record of vaccination.

186. The total number of operations performed by Vaccinators and Hospital Assistants was 617,381 or 8,757 less than were carried out over a similar area in 1905. The falling off is attributed to the prevalence of plague and cholera epidemics, to the withdrawal of Vaccinators from their duty for employment on special epidemic duty, and to sickness and mortality among Vaccinators in common with the rest of the population. Each Vaccinator performed on an average 2,069 operations, or rather fewer than in the previous year. There was a considerable increase in the number of re-vaccinations, which is attributable to special efforts made by Civil Surgeons to re-vaccinate as many persons as possible owing to the severe outbreak of small-pox during the year. The percentage of successful re-vaccinations was 75 and of primary vaccinations nearly 99.

Vaccination in Municipalities.

187. The Vaccination Act was not extended to any town during the year. The results of vaccination of children in municipalities were satisfactory: out of 24,307 children under one year of age available for vaccination, 19,915 were successfully vaccinated.

Mortality from small-pox.

188. The mortality from small-pox in the province was higher during the year 1906-07 than in any of the previous 10 years, with the exceptions of 1896, 1900 and 1905. Saugor, Damoh, Narsinghpur, Nagpur, Drug and Chanda were the districts most severely affected.

Lymph.

189. As usual, glycerinated lymph was employed in the vast majority of cases. The lymph was prepared as a rule at the head-quarters of each district, but in a few places it was prepared by Vaccinators in their own circles. In Berar it was manufactured by the Amraoti Paste Depôt, which could not however satisfy the demand in January. It is intended to introduce the Central Provinces system of preparing lymph into Berar.

Expenditure.

190. The total cost of the Provincial Department was Rs. 1,630 less than in the previous year, although the cost of establishment rose slightly. The average cost of each successful case remained the same as in 1905-06, *viz.*, two annas. In the Feudatory States the expenditure on vaccination was more than in the previous year by Rs. 525, but the average cost of each successful case, *viz.*, 1 anna and 3 pies, was the same as in 1905-06. The increase in expenditure is due to the inclusion of the establishment of the Udaipur, Jashpur, and Sirguja States for the first time.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

1.—GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

191. An account of this subject will be found at pages 118 to 124 of the Report on the Administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1901-02 and also at pages 80 to 83 of the Report on the Administration of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts for the same year.

2.—EDUCATION.

EDUCATION.

[Report on the state and progress of Education in the Central Provinces for the Quinquennium ending 1906-07, and Tables X-1, 2, 3 I, 3-J, 4 I, 5-D, 5-E, 6-J, 6-K, 7-J, 7-K, 8-I, 8-J, 9-E, 9-F, 10-I, 10-J, and Table XI of the Judical and Administrative Statistics of British India for the year 1906-07.]

Number of Schools and Scholars.

192. There were in 1906-07 in this Province including the Feudatory States 3,346 educational institutions of various kinds with 237,439 pupils on their rolls. These figures show an increase of 62 institutions and of 12,722 pupils over those of last year. The increase in the number of institutions was chiefly confined to girls' primary schools in the Khalsa and to boys' primary schools in the Feudatory States, but the rise in the number of scholars was distributed over all classes of schools. The number of boys under tuition was 222,925, and of girls 14,514. Over three-fourths of the total number under tuition belong to primary schools.

Features of the quinquennium, 1902—07.

193. Although the advance of education has been greatly hampered during the past five years by plague and local scarcity, there has nevertheless been distinct and substantial progress. Owing, however, to changes in area caused by the amalgamation of Berar with the Central Provinces and the transfer of the Sambalpur district to Bengal, it is not possible to make any useful comparison between the statistics of schools and scholars at the beginning and at the end of the quinquennium. It is clear, however, that both in British territory and in the Feudatory States there has been a satisfactory and general increase in the percentage of children of school-going age who actually attend school. The period has also been one of busy improvement in the administration of the Educational Department. The staff of Inspectors has been doubled, and an Inspectress of girls' schools appointed. Girls' schools have been provincialized, and a Female Normal School has been established. The fixed grant system has been substituted for that under which payment was made by results, and the fee system has been changed, a single rate for each grade of school being fixed. The poorer classes have been benefited by the extension of the scholarship system and by exemption, within certain limits, from the payment of fees. Another important measure has been the affiliation of all schools and colleges to the Allahabad University. Arrangements have been made for the higher teaching of science at Nagpur, where a Technical Institute has been established. Secondary education has spread: the pay of masters in Government schools has been improved, and there has been a great increase in the number of pupils receiving primary education. More attention has been paid to technical education and scholarships have increased both in number and value. In contrast with all these causes for congratulation is the recent regretable growth of pseudo-political agitation among the more advanced students, especially in the Maratha country and in Berar. It is hoped that the phase is but a temporary one, and it is at present confined within narrow limits, but it is impossible altogether to avoid reference to it in taking stock of the educational history of recent years.

Expenditure on Education.

194. Expenditure has been steadily expanding during the past five years, and, allowing for transfers and exchanges of territory, has increased during that period by approximately 32 per cent in the Central Provinces and by some

20 per cent in Berar. The rise is chiefly due to the increased cost of the inspecting staff and the improvement of the salaries of teachers, and has been justified by an increase in efficiency. The expenditure on buildings and furniture has also very greatly increased. Primary education absorbed nearly 37 per cent of the money available. Provincial and Imperial Revenues in 1906-07 contributed 38 per cent of the income of schools of all kinds, while District Funds contributed 36 per cent, but this latter figure also includes Provincial and Imperial grants made to District Funds for the purpose of education. Fees in primary schools, which have been reduced to a point at which, whilst being a burden to no one, they still provide a means of educating village committees in the elements of self-government, now suffice only to meet about 4 per cent of the actual expenditure. During the year 1906-07, the Government of India sanctioned a special non-recurring grant of Rs. 35,000 and a recurring grant of Rs. 10,000 for the improvement of collegiate education. Each of the two aided colleges received Rs. 10,000 of the non-recurring grant and Rs. 3,000 of the recurring, while the Victoria Technical Institute received the balance. The aided colleges spent their non-recurring allotments on land, apparatus, furniture and libraries, while the Technical Institute devoted its share to the provision of laboratories. The total expenditure on education in 1906-07 was Rs. 22,48,061.

University Education.

195. There are only three Art Colleges in the province, the Government College at Jubbulpore and the two aided institutions known as the Hislop College and the Morris College at Nagpur. All these institutions were on the recommendation of the University Commission affiliated a few years ago to the Allahabad University, but the change has not proved popular and has to some extent hindered the progress of University education in this province. Science classes were recently opened for the students of the Morris and Hislop Colleges at the Victoria Technical Institute at Nagpur, and it is hoped that these will ultimately develop into a First Grade Science College. Plague, a deficient fee system, the fact that the colleges were equipped only up to the B. A or B. Sc. Standard, and to some degree quasi-political dissensions have caused the numbers of students at all the institutions to drop from 325 in 1905 to 274, but the extraordinarily successful results of the last Entrance Examination are expected to remedy this falling-off in popularity. Attendance varied from 80 to 87 per cent on the average. The staff of the Colleges has been very greatly strengthened of recent years, notably by the addition of two officers of the Indian Educational Service. A great deal has been done in building and equipment, Rs. 35,000 having been spent in 1906-07 alone, as noted in the last paragraph. A lack of proper hostels with suitable supervision has been detrimental to the development of corporate life among the students, but something has been done towards forwarding such a development by fostering games and athletics in all three colleges. Examination results last year were very fair: it is noteworthy that the Government College at Jubbulpore secured better results than either of the two aided institutions in Nagpur.

Secondary Education.

196. Secondary education, both English and Vernacular, has spread considerably during the past five years, the former more rapidly than the latter. There were during the year under report 412 secondary schools numbering 46,218 scholars in the whole province, including the Feudatory States. Most of the Anglo-Vernacular schools are housed in fairly good buildings, but the rapid increase in the number of scholars has led in some cases to overcrowding. Equipment, except as regards scientific apparatus, is generally fair. 28 per cent of the schools are managed direct by Government, and these are efficiently staffed, as the prospect of a pension attracts a good class of men. But schools under local bodies do not offer the same inducements, and the staff is consequently not, as a rule, satisfactory. Attempts to introduce a 'modern side' to the curriculum have so far been unsuccessful. English is at present badly taught, though there has latterly been some improvement in this respect. There appears to be a universal demand for English education, but the severer incidence of plague in the larger towns has administered a check to the natural expansion of the numbers of English-learners. Opinions differ as to the popularity of Vernacular Middle Schools: the demand for such schools varies in different localities, but except in the Nagpur Circle, if the people want anything beyond primary education, they as a rule ask for English classes.

197. There were in 1906-07 2,438 primary schools for boys and 247 primary schools for girls in the Central Provinces and Berar, while the corresponding figures for the Feudatory States were 207 and 10 respectively. Primary schools thus make up nearly nine-tenths of the total number of schools. About 177,000 boys and 12,500 girls were under tuition in these institutions, and there was in board primary schools a satisfactory average attendance of 77 per cent. The number of boys attending school in proportion to the number of boys of school-going age varies from 17 to 33 per hundred in different districts, and is about 2 per cent for girls. These figures show substantial improvement on those of five years ago, but also demonstrate how much still remains to be done. It is furthermore impossible to regard all school-going children as permanent converts to the cause of education, since it is found that the majority of boys, who have been through the Primary course in Rural Schools, relapse into illiteracy. To counteract this tendency, an interesting experiment of founding village libraries has recently been set on foot in Balaghat. One of the main difficulties in primary education lies in the defective supply of competent teachers. The salary of certificated masters has twice been raised, but still stands too low in comparison with the high rates now prevailing for unskilled labour, while uncertificated teachers are even worse off. Is is, however, patent that the recent increases of pay have been followed by a marked improvement in the quality of the staff, and this, so far as it goes, gives cause for satisfaction. The supply of buildings has been well attended to by District Councils in the Central Provinces, but in Berar the matter has been much neglected, and the unsatisfactory method of renting buildings is still much in vogue in that division. During the past five years, District Councils of the Central Provinces have provided altogether over 485 buildings, while in Berar the number constructed in the same period was only 12. **Primary Education.**

198. The only institution in these provinces which trains secondary teachers is the Training Institution at Jubbulpore. There has been a very marked rise in the expenditure on this institution during the past five years, and last year the important step was taken of establishing a model high school, while four more teachers were added to the staff. But, in spite of sustained efforts, the results attained have been far from encouraging, and during a period of 18 years the institution has only been able to supply an average of between two and three trained teachers to each high or middle school in the province. The only remedy for this unsatisfactory state of affairs appears to be an improvement in the pay and prospects of the teaching profession. **Training Schools.**

The training of primary teachers is in even worse case. Here the supply has never been able to equal or even to approach the demand. It is calculated that an output of about 580 trained primary teachers is required annually, but last year only 114 trained men were supplied, though matters were somewhat bettered by the fact that 126 others obtained untrained teachers' certificates. The main difficulty is not, as in the secondary grade, a dearth of candidates, but the poor quality of the material which offers itself. There are four Normal Schools for the training of primary teachers, and last year 351 teachers were under training. An increase in the number of Normal Schools is clearly necessary, as also is the raising of the standard for admission, since under present conditions much of the time which should go to training in teaching has to be devoted to general instruction. The management, tone and discipline of the normal schools is satisfactory.

Besides training schools, there are 67 training classes attached to Vernacular Middle Schools, which have a certain value, but naturally give a less thorough training than the Normal Schools.

There are now two Normal Schools and 14 classes for the training of female teachers. The Jubbulpore Institution is extremely popular, but the Amraoti School does not appeal greatly to the more independent Marathi women. Last year for the first time a woman teacher passed the secondary grade examination.

199. The resources for higher technical education within the province are at present few, but scholarships at institutions outside the province are given to carefully selected students. The principal institutions within the province are the Technical Institute at Nagpur, the Engineering School at Jubbulpore, and the Industrial School at Amraoti, the last named of which **Technical Education.**

Chap. VII. EDUCATION.

will shortly be absorbed into a Technical Institute. The Nagpur Institute has a well-equipped laboratory for the teaching of Science. The Jubbulpore Engineering School is both popular and successful, and it is contemplated to increase both its accommodation and staff while the question of affiliating it with the Sibpur College in order to meet the need of trained men for the local mining industry is under consideration. Besides these recognized instructions there are many Mission centres at which excellent industrial training is given. The Jubbulpore Reformatory School also continues to do excellent work. The progress of Agricultural education has been dealt with in Chapter IV, Part I, *supra*. Law Classes are held at Jubbulpore and at Nagpur, but there was a marked falling-off in attendance at the latter place, in spite of the institution last year of two lectureships, which are occupied by gentlemen of high legal standing. A special grant of Rs. 4,000 was made by the Local Administration during the year to put the Law Classes on a proper footing. Medical scholarships continue to attract little competition owing to the poor prospects of the subordinate medical profession. An attempt to rouse popular interest in the establishment of a school of handicrafts in Nagpur was unsuccessful, but the matter is shortly to be taken up by Government.

Female Education.

200. Native girls' schools continued to increase rapidly during the year under report: there were 269 in 1906-07 as compared with 241 in 1905-06 and 224 in 1904-05. The appointment of a female inspecting staff appears to have already had the effect of gaining the confidence of the mothers of the girls and enlisting their sympathies on the side of female education. The management of girls' schools has changed of recent years: local bodies have almost entirely withdrawn from it, and at present nearly three-fourths of the schools are governed departmentally, while the rest are in the hands of aided societies. The quality of the teaching staff has vastly improved with the improvements recently made in their status, but, as in the case of boys' schools, there is still a great dearth of really efficient teachers. Out of 244 teachers in the graded service for girls' schools no fewer than 118 are men, and the dearth of women teachers is especially great in the Marathi districts. The average attendance of the pupils is naturally not so high as in boys' schools, but it is becoming much more spontaneous: a few years ago the girls were practically paid to attend school, but during the past two years this practice has almost entirely ceased. There are 33 secondary schools, most of which are conducted by missionary bodies. So far no high school has been started. Rapid progress has been made in providing accommodation since the provincialisation of girls' schools, and eight new buildings were erected in 1906-07.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS. — 3.—LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

[Table XII—1 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1906-07.]

Publications.

201. Fifty-two books were published during the year under report. Of these 27 were in Hindi, 17 in Marathi, five in English, and three in Sanskrit.

Twelve were religious books, three dramatic, one historical, two geographical. Two dealt with law, one with medicine and one with mathematical and mechanical science. The other 30 were on miscellaneous subjects.

The Vernacular Press.

202. There were 18 newspapers and periodicals published in the Central Provinces and Berar during the year. None of these has, however, any wide circulation.

Printing Presses.

203. There are in all 51 printing presses in the Provinces, of which 17 are in Berar.

LITERARY SOCIETIES. — 4.—LITERARY SOCIETIES.

204. During the year there were 90 Scientific and Literary Societies in the Provinces as compared with 56 in the previous year. Most of these are subscription libraries and depend mainly for support on subscriptions from members.

In the case of 21 societies, however, this source of income is supplemented by grants from Government and Local funds.

5.—ARTS AND SCIENCES.

[Report on the Department of Agriculture, Central Provinces, for the year ending the 30th June 1907.]

205. Substantial progress was made in the re-arrangement of the Nagpur Museum. The geological exhibits were transferred to the Economic Museum which is being established in the Victoria Technical Institute. A taxidermist was appointed during the year under report, and some interesting additions were made to the archæological and numismatic collections. A gallery was added to the west room. The number of visitors declined from 137,940 to 123,559. The number of visitors at the Raipur Museum was 85,872.

206. The project of opening a tassar nursery in Chanda made little progress during the year, as the Sericultural Assistant had to be sent to the Bengal Silk Farm at Chaibassa for further training.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

[For further information see Archæological Survey of India (New Series), Volume XIX.]

ARCHÆOLOGY.

207. Good progress was made with the restoration or preservation of such few interesting archæological remains as are to be found in this Province. The chief work undertaken was the restoration of the old city walls at Chanda, on which nearly Rs. 10,000 were spent during the year. Improvements or clearing of vegetation were carried out at the forts at Narnalla and Balapur in Berar, and at Ballarpur and Wairagarh in the Chanda District, the total expenditure on these amounting to nearly Rs. 5,000. Rs. 1,400 were spent on repairing old temples at Kothali, Rs. 800 on restoring the Motisamad Tomb at Dewalgaon Raja, and an additional Rs. 800 on the Mandhata temples, bringing the total expenditure on these last up to some Rs. 3,400. Over Rs. 1,500 were devoted to the restoration of old temples and a dharamsala at Lonar, and lesser works were in progress at various other places.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

1.—ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION.

ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION.

Ecclesiastical.

208. The diocese of Nagpur was formed in the year 1903, and includes the whole of the Central Provinces, Berar, Central India and Ajmere-Merwara, and all stations in Rajputana, except Mount Abu. There were no changes during the year.

2.—STATIONERY.

STATIONERY.

209. The value of stationery supplied for use in offices has decreased from Rs. 1,15,140 in 1905-06 to Rs. 1,05,960 in 1906-07. Under the departmental heads Revenue, Law and Justice, Education, Jail, Public Works Department, Police and Registration there is a decrease of Rs. 25,718 in the value of stationery obtained from the Calcutta Office, but the heads Forests, Administration, Political, Medical, Ecclesiastical and District .Council show an increase of Rs. 6,680. This increase is attributed principally to the supply of type-writers and to the fact that in the Medical Department all officers did not draw their supplies during 1905-06. There has also been an increase of Rs. 9,858 in the value of country stationery used during the year. The net decrease under all heads is thus Rs. 9,180.

Under Stationery and Printing there is an increase from Rs. 25,912 in 1905-06 to Rs. 53,507 in 1906-07 or over 106 per cent, due to the supply of paper and binding material.

3.—GENERAL—MISCELLANEOUS.

GENERAL.

Registration of rainfall.

210. Eleven new raingauge stations were established in the Central Provinces by the Revenue Department during the year, and three were moved to more suitable sites. Out of 105 raingauges maintained by this Department during the year, 9 were observatories under the control of the Meteorological Department, and 15 were maintained by Feudatory States. Besides the raingauge stations mentioned above there are 20 raingauge stations which are under the control of the Public Works Department. Four new stations were established by this Department during the year under report, and one was abolished. In Berar, there were 44 raingauges under the Revenue Department, of which 4 were observatories under control of the Meteorological Department. There were no changes during the year. The number of inspections and the results were fairly satisfactory.

Sectt. Press, Nagpur:—No. 1712, Civil Sectt.—20-2-08—490.

CENTRAL PROVINCES

Scale 1 Inch = 80 Miles or $\frac{1}{5068800}$

100 50 0 100

78° 82° 24° 20°

CENTRAL INDIA AGENCY

BERAR

CENTRAL PROVINCES

HYDERABAD

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

MADRAS PRESIDENCY

BAY OF BENGAL

UNITED PROVINCES

Goona 1617 · Laditpur · Jehri · Bijáwar · Sohágwal · Nagode · Rewah 1045 · Son R.

Sironj · Kanwah · Bina · Sagor 1758 · Dámoh · Katni · Jaitpur · Sunhat KORIA · Lohardaga · Ranchi

Mehidpur · Narsingarh · Shájahánpur · Ujain 1350 · BHOPAL 1670 · Fatehabad · Dewás · Jubbulpore 1306 · Birsingpur · Sohagpur · Bisrámpur SARGUJA · Jashpur

Hoshangabad · Narsinghpur · Dindori · INDORE 1786 · Mhow · Itarsi · Mundam · Pachmarhi 3336 · Sirsora · Mandla · Nainpur · Amarkantak 3493 · Mátin · Rábko UDAIPUR · Korba · Baraduar · Raigarh · Laingarh · Bengal Nagpur Ry.

Mattakka · Malvai · Khandesh · Betul · Chhindwara · Seoni · Bálaghát · Kawarda · Bilaspur · Jharsuguda

Ásirgarh · Tapti R. · Chikalda 3664 · Gawilgurh · Burhánpur · Gondia · Silihari · Bargarh · Sambalpur

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY · Nimár · Ellichpur · Kámptee NAGPUR 1125 · Bhandára · Drug · Raipur · Nándgaon · Arjuna

Amraoti · Purna R. · Badnera · Wardha · Pauni · Rajim · Sonpur · Mahánadi R.

Khamgaon · Buldána · Akola · Wardha R. · Chandak · Wainganga R. · Hinganghát · Chamtari · Nawagarh · Kanker 1967

Mehkar · Basim · Penganga R. · Purna R. · Warora · Wun R. · Tel R. · Raigarh 848 · Bhundesar

Jalna · Hingoli · Dudhna R. · Godavari R. · Mánjra R. · Mál · Sindi · Ballarpur · Máhor · Parlakot · Umarkot · Junagarh · Kasipur · Singapur · Chilka Lake · Ganjám

Nánded · Ahíri · Bastar · Jagdalpur 1831 · Jeypoor

Kandhár · Indur · Sironcha · Chanur · Bhopalpatnam · Dantawara · Godavari R. · Indravati R.

Manjira R. · Kaulás · Yelgondal · Chintalnar · Kondakamberi · Chicacole · Calingapatam

Rársi · Medak · Waraugal · Damagadam · Vizianagaram

Sholápur 1668 · Bidar · Nizam's R. · Yellandu · Sillári R. · Waltair

Gulbarga · Bolarum · Bhongir · Secunderabad 2024 · HYDERABAD · Dornakal · Vizagapatam

Reference.

Nimar..... 1

Chánda..... 2

No 357 E., Under Secy to the Ch Commr, C. P.—Nov. 07—490.

Reg. No 2159 E., 08 490

Litho, S. I. O., Calcutta

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ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

FOR

THE YEAR 1907-08

PART I

GENERAL SUMMARY

The Hon'ble Mr. R. H. CRADDOCK, C.S.I., I.C.S., held charge of the office of Chief Commissioner throughout the year. **The Administration.**

2. The rabi harvest of 1907 was an average one, and up to the end of August, though the rains were somewhat ill-distributed, there was nothing very abnormal in the agricultural conditions of the year. The monsoon, however, failed in September, and the hopes of a fairly good kharif harvest were doomed to disappointment. The failure of the crops was most serious in the poor and hilly tracts of the northern districts; the plains and the south of the provinces did better, but on the whole the provinces reaped only half a normal harvest. The dryness of the autumn caused a very large shrinkage in the area sown with rabi crops, but over this restricted area, owing to favourable rain during the cold weather, a moderate harvest was obtained. One redeeming feature of the early cessation of the monsoon was the marked stimulus that it gave to irrigation. The effect of the crop-failure will be described below in dealing with the condition of the people. **Agricultural features of the year.**

3. In the fifteen Feudatory States, six of which continued to be under the direct management of Government, the year was one of peaceful progress, and the relations between the Chiefs and the officers of Government remained most cordial. Plague broke out at Nandgaon, and there was a partial failure of the autumn crops in many of the States, but neither of these calamities revealed any defect in the administration or left the secure financial position of the Chiefs impaired. Some of the States were able to export considerable quantities of food-grains to less favoured tracts, and even in those where the crop-failure was serious it was not found necessary to start any measures of famine relief. Except for an epidemic of small-pox in Sirguja and plague at Nandgaon, the public health was good. Crime was very light, and judicial administration efficient. Attention was paid to excise-reform, education made very good progress, and large amounts were spent on public works. The remote Chota Nagpur States are generally more undeveloped than those of Chhattisgarh, but their Chiefs have shown no backwardness in making their administration as efficient as their resources will permit. **Relations with Feudatory States.**

4. The first half of the year was a period of continuing and even increased prosperity for the people. Prices of food-grains were high, but the labouring classes, whose wages have risen in greater proportion than prices, could obtain **Condition of the people.**

work easily on excellent terms, while the cultivators, who had enjoyed good harvests in the preceding year, benefited greatly by the condition of the market. Trade flourished, and the manganese industry, now so valuable an asset to the Nagpur country, was carried on with increased activity. The birth-rate was again the highest in India, and though the year was not a healthy one, there was a fall in the death-rate. The credit of the agricultural classes was high; the landlords held their own well against the money-lenders, and the co-operative credit movement gained ground. There was some political agitation in the towns, but the country-side was practically unaffected by movements of this kind. In the autumn the widespread crop-failure caused by the premature cessation of the monsoon made it certain that there would be a considerable degree of distress, especially in the northern districts, and there was even fear that famine, which had developed in the United Provinces, would appear. Prices rose to famine rates, but there was a remarkable absence of panic, and though it was found necessary to give a small amount of famine relief, the people showed a power of resistance which was remarkable, but, in view of the preceding years of prosperity, not unexpected. The demands of surplus labour were adequately met by a wide distribution of loans for agricultural improvements, which were freely taken and usefully spent, and by a great extension of the programme of State road-works. At the end of the year a fairly good rabi harvest banished all fear of widespread famine, though it was necessary to continue and even expand the small relief operations in the poorer tracts.

Realization of the revenue.

5. There was a small increase in the land revenue demand on account of the revision of settlement in Chanda and Bilaspur. Nearly the whole of the current demand was collected with ease, and the little coercion that was found necessary was chiefly in the most prosperous tracts, where the cultivators, owing perhaps to the security of their financial position, are less apprehensive of the consequences of default.

Surveys.

6. The Imperial Survey Department traversed 134½ square miles, mostly in the Nimar district, where villages are in process of formation with a view to ryotwari settlement, and a supplementary topographical survey was effected over 844 square miles in four other districts. Correction of village-maps was, as usual, in progress in districts where the revenue settlement is being revised.

Settlements.

7. Regular settlement operations were brought to a close in Chanda, and were in progress in Mandla, Raipur, Bilaspur, Jubbulpore and Nimar. The re-settlement of the Seoni district is overdue, but the term of the current settlement has been extended by the Government of India to the normal period of 20 years, and a short extension has also been made in the malguzari portion of the Baihar tahsil. In Jubbulpore operations were stopped owing to the failure of the autumn crops, but elsewhere progress was satisfactory.

Land Records.

8. No important changes were made in the system of land records or in the staff which maintains them. Much more attention to land records is still needed from tahsildars, and their responsibility in this matter is now being carefully insisted on. The non-resident patwari, who is necessarily a less useful intelligence officer than a man who resides in his circle, is gradually disappearing, and it is satisfactory to notice an improvement in the discipline of these men, although the fact remains that many of them are allowed to retain their posts simply for lack of competent men to replace them. The staff, though paid at a lower rate than the recent rapid rise in wage-rates would justify, is generally an

efficient body of men, but the Berar patwaris although efficient accountants have still much to learn, especially in the matter of survey.

Waste lands.

9. In the Central Provinces nearly one-sixth of the waste-lands belonging to Government and available for cultivation were allotted during the year, and in Berar nearly the whole of the available area has been taken up. What remains is of inferior quality, and many Berar cultivators are now turning to Nimar for land which is being thrown open for ryotwari settlement.

Court of Wards.

10. The year was a most successful one for the Court of Wards. Nine estates were entirely freed from debt, and in none were the liabilities enhanced. Rental collections were very good and there was a considerable increase in forest income, while the satisfactory position of many estates enabled them to spend considerable sums in improvements. Relations between the Court and its wards have much improved, and the credit of the Court, which was seriously impaired in the hard times which followed the famines, never stood higher than it does to-day.

Revenue and rent-paying classes.

11. A good autumn harvest in 1906 and a fair one in the following spring did much to increase the prosperity of the cultivating classes and strengthen their credit, with the result that when, in the autumn of 1907, there was a sudden and almost general failure of the monsoon, they were able to meet the situation with equanimity, and signs of distress were very slow in appearing. The extension of cultivation is now hampered by lack of labourers rather than by want of material resources. There is a slow but distinct awakening to the value of improved methods of agriculture; co-operative credit societies, where started, have shown signs of healthy growth, and the benefits of irrigation are being appreciated. The tenantry holds its own well against the landlords, and the landlords in their turn are more successfully withstanding the inroads of the money-lending and commercial classes. The relations between tenants and their landlords are satisfactory, and both classes are steadily becoming more familiar with their rights under the present tenancy law, which has now successfully stood the test of ten years' experience.

Police.

12. A marked increase in crime must be ascribed to a reversion to normal conditions from the abnormally clean record of recent years, rather than to any special circumstances, and the nature of the crimes committed does not disclose any general tendency to greater lawlessness or any contempt for the authority of the Government. Murders were numerous and many of the more serious dacoities and robberies were committed by gangs which came from Hyderabad and carried on their depredations in the wealthy districts of Berar, while drug-poisoning, which attained unwonted prominence, was largely the work of two criminals who were successfully brought to book. Fair results were achieved in the investigation and detection of crime. In this matter the police of Berar are still inferior to those of the rest of the province, but they are much hampered by the laxity of the village officers, whose active collaboration was specially necessary in a year when much of the more serious crime was the work of nomadic criminals. These evil-doers cannot be hunted down unless there exists in the villages a ready and expeditious system of intelligence, which cannot be better provided than from the village community itself.

The police establishment is still much below the full strength sanctioned as a result of the Police Commission's recommendations, especially in the number

of gazetted officers, but this is a defect which can only be remedied gradually, and progress has been reasonably rapid. The rank and file is nearly up to full strength, but the difficulties of recruitment show no sign of abating and are specially prominent in the southern districts owing to the poorness of the material which offers itself and the high wage-rates which prevail. The reform of the station-house and out-post system awaits the provision of buildings and the existence of a sufficient and competent staff of Sub-Inspectors. Great activity is now being devoted to carrying out the building programme, and the Saugor Training School, which makes excellent progress, is doing good work in filling the lower ranks of officers with an improved class of men. Discipline was satisfactory, and the punishment returns were low.

Criminal Justice.

13. The magistracy was strengthened by the appointment of more honorary magistrates, especially in Berar, but there was only a slight increase in the number of cases brought before the criminal courts. Nevertheless the duration of cases increased, owing partly to the demands which the failure of the monsoon in the autumn made on the time of those magistrates who, as revenue officers, were busily engaged in enquiries regarding the possibility of agricultural distress. The decisions of the appellate courts seem to indicate an improvement in the quality of the work done by those of original jurisdiction. Fines were judiciously imposed and easily realized. The most pressing reform in the criminal judicial administration is the reduction of the size of the present Sessions Divisions.

Prisons.

14. Of recent years there has been a constant fall in the number of prisoners confined in jail. The period over which this fall has been noticeable has been one in which the prosperity of all classes has increased rapidly, and in which well paid work has been so plentiful that there can be few whom hunger has driven to crime. In the administration of the jails the year was one of successful management, and of increased efficiency combined with greater economy. In spite of a fall in the average jail population and a scale of prices which always approximated and finally attained famine level, there was a marked reduction in the cost of maintaining each prisoner. Accompanying this reduction there was a very large increase in cash earnings, and the manufacturing industries were very successful in the central jails of Jubbulpore and Raipur. Discipline was well maintained with a somewhat higher punishment roll than before, but with less resort to corporal punishment. The excellent bill of health of the previous year could not be returned again, but the death-rate, though much increased, was only 18 for every thousand convicts, and cholera, though present in several districts, failed to make an appearance in the jails. Juvenile prisoners were almost non-existent, and important reforms were effected with the object of separating the habitual from the casual convict. An attempt was made, with some success, to find honest employment for habitual criminals after their release.

Civil Justice.

15. Civil litigation remained fairly constant in its character and volume, but rent suits show a tendency to decline owing probably to a better understanding of the concessions admissible to tenants under the tenancy law when similar concessions are granted by Government to landlords. The pending file increased, but fair progress was made in freeing it of old cases which had long encumbered it. Appellate work was heavy, but except in the Judicial Commissioner's Court, which worked short-handed for six months, it was despatched with greater promptitude than before, a very marked improvement being noticeable in Berar. The permanent retention of the post of Second Additional Judicial Commissioner

has now been sanctioned by the Secretary of State, and the position of the judicial staff has been much improved by the introduction of a revised cadre and scale of pay. Buildings are urgently needed in many districts, but their erection depends on the realization of the scheme of making the Criminal Sessions Division and the Civil District identical.

Registration.

16. The statistics of registration show a rise in the number of mortgages of immoveable property, but a fall in sales ; it would thus appear that while credit and commercial speculation have increased, there is less bankruptcy. Where sales have taken place agriculturist purchasers have been well to the fore. There is an increased tendency to dispose of property by gift and will, owing, it is believed, to the uncertainty of life when plague is ever threatening. Registration in the Central Provinces is now in the hands of a regular salaried staff and is more efficiently performed than when it was largely entrusted to the spare time of Revenue Officers and schoolmasters.

Municipal Administration.

17. The number of Municipalities was 57, or one less than in the previous year, the Betul Municipality being reduced to the status of a notified area. Income increased slightly, while expenditure increased largely and was in excess of income, the excess being met from the opening balances, which were more than sufficient for the purpose. Three lakhs were transferred to the Public Works Department for extension of the Jubbulpore water-works. A matter in which much improvement is needed is drainage, and schemes in this connection, including a very large project at Nagpur, have been drawn up in several towns, but will not be put into effect till they have received the approval of a sanitary expert. Expenditure on lighting and roads increased, extensive street improvements being made in the congested areas of Nagpur. The financial position of the borrowing Municipalities is sound, and Nagpur will need further loans for large projects in connection with its water-supply and drainage. The relations between the Committees and the officers of Government have generally been excellent, and in all the larger and many of the smaller towns a real and growing interest is taken by members in their civic duties. In the large towns many public-spirited gentlemen are found, who devote their time and labour to the details of municipal administration. Such cannot be expected to be the case in many of the smaller Municipalities, which must still depend for efficient management on official members and office-bearers.

District Councils and Local Boards.

18. All the District Councils and nearly all the Local Boards held at least the prescribed number of meetings, but there is much room for improvement in the matter of attendance by members. Suspensions of land revenue caused a fall in the rates levied thereon and made over to the Councils, but, notwithstanding this loss, there was a small rise in income. Expenditure rose from 23 to 25 lakhs of rupees and exceeded income, the deficit being met from the closing balances, which, in the case of many Councils, are unduly heavy. Very good progress was made in improving communications, the provision of school-buildings, and improving the pay of teachers in primary schools. On the whole, notwithstanding the apathy displayed by many members of the Councils and Boards, the year's record was satisfactory. More money was spent on useful objects and overgrown balances were reduced, but much remains to be done in the latter direction, especially in Berar. Measures are being taken to improve the Public Works staff and thus remove one of the chief obstacles to any great development of profitable expenditure. If the control exercised by the Councils is necessarily limited, there is hope of a partial removal of this reproach when the management

of village markets is handed over to them, as is in contemplation. With this reform it is expected that some of the apathy displayed by many members will disappear. If attendance at meetings is bad and elections fail to excite enthusiasm, it must be remembered that full weight is not always given to the work done by Local Board members within their circles in supervising works and in other directions. Many members ungrudgingly give their time to work of this kind, and, though such activity may not be accompanied by attendance at meetings, it is none the less evidence of public spirit and worthy of every acknowledgment.

The Agricultural Department.

19. The superior staff of the Agricultural Department is now complete for present requirements, and the quality of the subordinate staff is improving. The results achieved at the Agricultural College fell short of what may be expected in future, when the staff of assistant lecturers shall have been completed and adequate provision made for laboratory work. The disinclination for practical work exhibited by many of the students prevented them from deriving full benefit from the course of instruction provided. The operations of the Department were much hampered by the failure of the rains, especially in the matter of experimental cultivation. At the Akola farm experiments were made in growing separately the four distinct varieties of cotton commonly grown together under the name of *jari*, and the long-stapled *malvensis* variety has been found to be the most profitable when prices of the lint are high. The *buri* cotton imported from the Sonthal Parganas of Bengal promises to be a valuable crop. The successful cultivation of jute, which is not a crop grown in these provinces, has been fully demonstrated to be possible in lands lying below tanks, and a great measure of success has been obtained at Raipur in demonstrating to the cultivators of Chhattisgarh the advantages of transplantation over the present backward methods of cultivating rice. The object with which subsidized cotton-seed farms were established has not so far been achieved, but there is reason to believe that the time has come when the subsidy can be withdrawn without fear of extinguishing the farms. In research a good deal of useful work has been done, and the existence of a very serious pest in the potato has been discovered. Sales of improved implements continue, and the "Agricultural Gazette," which is useful in advertising these, is steadily increasing its circulation among cultivators.

In the Veterinary Department the chief feature of the year was the large increase in the number of inoculations performed, the amount of work done in this direction being nearly three times as great as in the previous year. In some places there has been most remarkable conversion of the people to a belief in the value of inoculation as a safeguard against rinderpest. The cattle-farm at Telenkheri has been very successful in breeding good stock, but the efforts of Government to extend its benefits by lending good bulls to private stock-owners are hampered by the carelessness of the persons to whom the bulls are lent. The Veterinary Department will be provincialized on the 1st March 1909, and the higher rates of pay that will then be granted should do something to improve the quality of the subordinate staff.

The year, being largely one of serious agricultural scarcity, was of exceptional interest in its influence on the co-operative credit movement. Owing to the scarcity active measures were not taken to promote the formation of new societies, but there was nevertheless a small increase in their number, which consists of 4 central, 7 urban and 69 rural societies, and membership rose from 2,515 to 3,777, while working capital rose from Rs. 79,135 to

Rs. 1,61,605. The most urgent need of the movement is the provision of capital. Considering the straitened conditions of the year a praiseworthy measure of success was achieved in the collection of outstanding loans, and on the whole the societies stood the test of the year remarkably well. The scarcity left them practically untouched, familiarity with the idea of co-operative credit has gained ground, and a foundation of indispensable experience has been laid.

Weather and crops.

20. For the first half of 1907 seasonal conditions were normal, and the provinces were still enjoying the fruits of a generally adequate and, in the rice districts, abundant harvest. The rains of the year, which are due in the middle of June, arrived late, but nevertheless a more than full area was sown with autumn crops. Then early in September the rains ceased entirely except in a few favoured tracts, and there was extensive crop-failure, which made it necessary for Government to open measures of relief. The most important autumn crops, *viz.*, rice, juar, tur, til and cotton, gave little more than half a normal yield, while kodon and kutki, uncommercial crops which are sown over large areas in the most unfertile tracts and form the chief food of the aboriginal castes, gave little more than a third. The dryness of the autumn, however, gave a great stimulus to irrigation, and the area irrigated, though comparatively insignificant, exceeded all previous records. The time for sowing the spring crops passed by without any improvement in the situation; the area sown with them decreased by 28 per cent, and much of the seed sown failed to germinate. At the end of November most welcome and general rain fell, which, though too late to increase materially the area sown, saved the seedlings, and a fair crop was finally ensured by good rain which fell in the following January and February. The distressed northern districts reaped a fair crop of wheat, and the yield would have been a full one had a normal area been sown. Over the whole province the outturn of wheat, gram and masur was nearly 70 per cent of the average, and the only spring crop that really failed was linseed. The outturn of all the principal crops in the autumn and following spring harvests was estimated at 53 per cent of the normal.

Forests.

21. In forest administration the main feature of the year was the great value of the forests in relieving the distress which followed the crop-failure in the autumn. In all the most affected tracts the free removal of head-loads of grass and fuel, and the free collection of minor edible produce, were allowed, while considerable amounts of revenue were remitted. The total value of these concessions amounted to over $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees, and more than a lakh was spent on an extension of the construction programme of roads, tanks and wells in order to provide employment for people in need of it. The additions to communications and water-supply thus effected were of real utility, and will add to the value of the forests in future years, but the immediate result of these works and the free concessions allowed was to cause a large reduction in the profits of the Department, which amounted to little over five lakhs or nearly six lakhs below those of the previous year. In many cases the concessions were abused, and there was a considerable increase in forest offences of the more petty kinds. Measures for protection from fire were successful, considering that the year was a much drier one than usual. A new working-plan for 193 square miles of *sal* forest in Balaghat was sanctioned, and plans were completed for the forests of the Saugor Division and for the Motinala forests in the Mandla Division. The recently established forest school at Balaghat is progressing well, and there is no lack of candidates, either private or official.

Mines and quarries.

22. The opening of a mine at Butaria in the Chhindwara district, and a full year's working of the new Government colliery at Ballarpur in Chanda, largely increased the output of coal, but the total output of the province is still somewhat below the figure at which it stood before the Warora colliery was closed. The most important mineral industry of the province is the extraction of manganese ore, the whole of which is exported. This rapidly developing industry was much stimulated by a sharp rise of prices early in the year, and the total output was nearly half a million tons, valued, at the pit's mouth, at $36\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs of rupees. Later there was a heavy fall in prices, a matter not wholly to be deplored if it ousts the small speculator, whose methods of working have been found to be most wasteful. The limestone quarries of the Jubbulpore district availed themselves of the comparatively plentiful labour that agricultural depression drove to them, and considerably increased their output. Extraordinary activity in the mining industry was evidenced by the grant of no less than 184 prospecting licenses, or four times as many as in the previous year, while the number of mining leases granted rose from 5 to 15. The health of employés was good, and there were no prosecutions under the Mines Act.

Manufactures.

23. Most of the factories in the provinces are cotton-gins and presses. The cotton crop was a poor one, and, though this did not result in any diminution of the number of factories, many of them worked with less than their full strength of operatives. The health of the workers was good, and sanitary conditions were satisfactory; where attempts are made to detect and punish irregularities, they are thwarted in no small measure by the passive resistance of the workers themselves. Accidents were not numerous, and only three proved fatal. The unfavourable agricultural conditions of the autumn slightly lowered the wages of unskilled labour, but had no effect on skilled workmen who are as difficult as ever to procure.

Prices and Trade.

24. Prices of food-grains stood high at the beginning of the year, and in the autumn the widespread failure of the crops in the United Provinces, accompanied by a similar but less intense failure in these provinces, brought them up to famine rates. The crop-failure also had a marked effect on the year's trade, which consists very largely of the export of grain. The good harvests of the early part of the year enabled the provinces to send away more grain than they received, but while exports of grain rose by only 20 per cent, imports rose by 119 per cent. The trade in other commodities like raw cotton, oil-seeds and fodder, which depend directly on seasonal conditions, was similarly affected. Exports of metals increased as the recently developed manganese industry continued to flourish during the greater part of the year, though it suffered towards the close from a marked fall in prices. Exports of manufactured cotton remained stationary. The total value of exports decreased by 95 lakhs, while that of imports rose by $105\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. Imports of opium, liquors, sugar and tea declined, but those of salt and oil increased. The value of exports was as usual above that of imports, but the balance in favour of exports fell from $6\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees. The poor success of agriculture in the latter half of the year was alone sufficient to cause this decrease.

Public Works.

25. The year was a busy one in the Public Works Department, the total expenditure rising from $48\frac{3}{4}$ to over 59 lakhs. Apart from the steady increase which the development of the province and the requirements of the different departments necessitate, special expenditure to the extent of seven lakhs was incurred towards the end of the year on a large expansion of operations for road

construction, with a view to providing work in the tracts where distress was apprehended on account of extensive crop-failure. The works thus provided were of the greatest assistance in obviating recourse to famine works with their demoralizing influences; they were in no sense famine works, but were carried out under ordinary conditions of employment, and would sooner or later have been undertaken on their merits. They were pushed on mainly in the north of the province, where it was feared that distress might appear first, but the southern districts, where communications are at present most deficient, were given the greatest prominence in the ordinary programme of the year, special attention being paid to the new district of Drug and the great land-locked tracts of Chanda. There was great activity in the erection of buildings, especially on behalf of the Police Department, which is far short of its requirements in working up to the schemes recommended by the Police Commission, and on behalf of the Civil Judiciary whose increased business, enlarged cadre, and separation from the Executive necessitate the provision of accommodation all over the province. A number of bonded warehouses were built for the Excise Department, and considerable sums were spent on the equipment of the Government Agricultural Farms at Labhandih, Powarkhera and Nagpur. The new Secretariat building at Nagpur made good progress.

Irrigation.

26. Irrigation from works constructed by the State is still a novelty to the people of these provinces, and it is still necessary to offer its benefits on the most liberal terms in order to encourage their acceptance. The otherwise deplorable failure of the monsoon in 1907 was at least useful in making cultivators appreciate the efforts of Government in this direction; all the State tanks filled well; the cultivators of the protected areas eagerly sought water to save their crops, and the area irrigated from the tanks increased more than seven-fold. Some of the State works are thus already in a position to effect their purpose, but much still remains to be done and the construction of projects is being carried on vigorously. Work on the Ramtek tank in Nagpur made good progress in spite of an outbreak of cholera among the labourers, and the distributary systems of other more or less completed tanks were laid out. No canals at present exist, but three important canal schemes are in contemplation. For two of these—the Mahanadi and Tendula canals in the Raipur and Drug districts—complete detailed proposals have already been submitted for the sanction of the Government of India, while for the other—the Wainganga canal—a detailed estimate is in course of preparation. In addition to these about 130 minor works, including those constructed with the help of grants in aid of private enterprise, were under construction during the year.

Revenue and Finance.

27. The gross Imperial and Provincial revenue was 314·39 lakhs or 19½ lakhs less than that of the previous year. Land revenue along accounted for more than 10 lakhs of the decrease, owing to the poor receipts of the latter half of the year, when liberal suspensions and some remissions of revenue were granted on account of the serious crop-failure in the autumn. Other heads of revenue which were adversely affected by the character of the season were excise, the receipts from which, partly from this cause and partly on account of the discontinuance of advance collections, fell from 83 to 73 lakhs, and forest revenue, which declined by more than a lakh owing to the remission of grazing dues and the free grant of minor produce in the affected tracts. On the other hand the receipts from stamps and registration were increased by the crop-failure, which gave rise to more numerous transactions in connection with rights in land,

but part of the increase was undoubtedly due to the further development of commercial activity, which becomes more apparent from year to year. On the expenditure side there was an increase, under gross Imperial and Provincial revenues, from 229 to 266 lakhs. Scarcity necessitated the expenditure of more than a lakh on relief operations, which were begun on a small scale before the close of the year, and the cost of several departments was much swollen by the grant of grain-compensation to low-paid servants, who became entitled to this concession on account of the rise in the prices of food-grains to famine rates. Expenditure on public works rose by more than 12 lakhs. This increase was partly due to great activity in erecting buildings which are urgently needed by the Police, Judicial and other departments, but was also incurred in expanding the ordinary road-construction programme so as to provide work in the tracts affected by the scarcity. Progress in re-organizing the Police Department, in accordance with the recommendations of the Police Commission, increased expenditure by nearly three lakhs, while the introduction of the revised and enlarged cadre of the judiciary contributed to the increase of nearly 1½ lakhs under Law and Justice—Courts of Law. Agriculture absorbed a lakh more than in the previous year, and the only head under which substantial reduction was possible was the expenditure on Jails. Municipal revenue increased slightly, but the income of District Councils was reduced by a fall in the cesses realizable on the land revenue, owing to the crop-failure which necessitated short realizations of the revenue itself.

Vital Statistics.

28. The birth-rate (52·46 *per mille*) was again the highest in India. Though the death-rate fell from 43·47 to 41·70 *per mille*, and there was less epidemic mortality than in the previous year, the year was not a healthy one. There were two distinct epidemics of cholera, both traceable to pilgrims returning from fairs outside the provinces, especially those at Pandharpur and Jagannath Puri. Plague was severe in Berar, where it caused 19,410 deaths, or more than half the entire number from this disease in the province. A suitable opportunity for issuing instructions regarding the campaign against plague was found in the receipt of His Majesty's message to his Indian subjects, and of a communication from the Government of India. Great success was obtained with inoculation even in places which the disease had never previously visited, and systematic measures for rat-destruction were taken, while the people themselves showed readiness to evacuate their houses as soon as danger appeared.

Emigration.

29. The districts which supply most of the labour recruited for emigration are Jubbulpore and Bilaspur, and many of the coolies recruited in the former district hail from the Rewah State. All of these tracts were among those in which the crop-failure of the year was most severely felt, and the consequent distress gave a very marked fillip to recruitment. Certain relaxations of the provisions of the Emigration Act, in accordance with the recommendations of the Assam Labour Enquiry Committee, and a reduction of fees, also contributed in some measure to more successful recruitment, and the number of labourers enlisted rose from 1,395 to 6,447. The health of the emigrants was good, and there were few irregularities in recruitment.

Medical Relief.

30. The number of dispensaries rose to 269, or 13 more than in the previous year, and the number of patients treated at them rose to 1,700,000. Private dispensaries continued to afford most valuable assistance. The amount contributed by subscribers was somewhat disappointing. The lunatic asylums at Nagpur and Jubbulpore contained more inmates than in the previous year,

and all females were transferred to the former from the latter asylum, which will soon be abolished. The health of the inmates was good, and the cost of maintaining each inmate decreased.

Sanitation.

31. In Jubbulpore a large project for improving the water-supply of this rapidly growing town was taken in hand, and good progress made, while several other towns spent considerable sums on their water-supply and drainage. Although the subject receives unremitting attention as far as funds permit, the sanitation of many municipal towns, as evinced by the vital statistics, still leaves much to be desired, and special measures are being taken, with the aid of the Government of India, to finance the necessary reforms In the villages the operations possible are for the most part restricted to the maintenance of cleanliness by the most homely means, and this is all that is financially possible or practically necessary.

Vaccination.

32. The staff of vaccinators was transferred during the year to the control of local bodies, and the temporary dislocation thus caused in working, together with the presence of plague, resulted in a small decrease in the number of vaccinations performed. The percentage of success was 98 in primary vaccinations, and 76 in re-vaccinations. Glycerinated lymph was the prophylactic almost universally employed.

Education.

33. Education made steady progress, and a satisfactory feature of the year was a large increase in the expenditure of District Councils with the object of bettering the pay of teachers. The chief need at present, in both primary and secondary schools, is the provision of accommodation. Although improvements are being undertaken, as funds permit, both in respect of school-buildings and hostels, the requirements are so large and so costly that some time must elapse before they can be met. In the colleges there was a considerable increase of students, and, though discipline was impaired by attention to political agitators, very fair results were secured in the examinations. There was some advance in the success of the training institutions, but the supply of trained teachers is far below the demand. The commercial development of the provinces has provided employment for men trained in engineering and mining, and a scheme is on foot for starting a school or college for teaching these subjects at Nagpur. Female education progresses slowly but surely, and in some of the more important villages the people have not only voiced their desire for it, but have supported their demands by the solid guarantee of financial contribution. With an increased demand for education of all kinds, the resources both of the Department and of the Administration are severely taxed. Not only have the right lines of progress to be formulated, but there is a vigorous contest for the funds available, and demands for new schools have to be balanced against demands for improved ones, neither of which can be fully met.

PART II

CHAPTER I

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

At pages 1 to 52 of the Report on the administration of the Central Provinces for 1901-02 and at pages 1 to 25 of the Report on the administration of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts for the same year will be found an account of the following subjects drawn up for standard reference. Certain portions of the information given are rendered obsolete owing to the transfer of the major portion of the Sambalpur district and the Feudatory States of Patna, Sonpur, Rehrakhol, Kalahandi and Bamra from the Central Provinces to Lower Bengal and the transfer of the Chota Nagpur States—Sirguja, Udaipur, Jashpur, Korea and Changbhakar—from Lower Bengal to the Central Provinces with effect from the 16th October 1905, and by the division of the Raipur, Bilaspur and remainder of the Sambalpur district into three districts on the formation of the Drug district on 1st January 1906. Other changes have been the reduction of the six districts of Berar to four with effect from the 1st September 1905, and the transfer of the Zamindaris of Ambagarh-Chauki, Panabaras, Aundhi and Koracha from the Chanda to the Drug district on the 1st October 1907.

1—PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY, AREA, CLIMATE, &c.

2—HISTORICAL SUMMARY

3—FORM OF ADMINISTRATION

[For an account of the "Form of Administration" in Berar, see paragraph 2 of Part II of the Administration Report of the Central Provinces for 1903-04.]

4—CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES

5—SYSTEM OF SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT

6—CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY

7—DETAILS OF THE LAST CENSUS—TRIBES AND LANGUAGES

8—THE ADMINISTRATION

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION

2. The Hon'ble Mr. R. H. Craddock, C.S.I., I.C.S., held charge of the office of Chief Commissioner throughout the year.

9.—RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES

RELATIONS WITH THE FEUDATORY STATES

[Report on the administration of the Feudatory States of the Central Provinces for the year 1907.]

Changes in the Administration.

3. There was no change in the administration of any of the Feudatory States during 1907, nine being ruled by their own chiefs and six remaining under Government management. The year was the last in which the Bastar State was under the management of Government. It is satisfactory to record that the Chief of Kawardha, who has always exhibited a preference for being with his brother, the Zamindar of Pandaria, has now settled down in his own State and is learning the business of administration. A Durbar was held at Raipur in January by Mr. Miller, who afterwards visited the States of Khairagarh, Nandgaon and Chhuikhadan.

RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES.

Rainfall and Crops.

4. Agricultural conditions were normal in the first part of the year but the monsoon was not a favourable one, and after the first week in September the rain suddenly ceased. Autumn crops were poor but irrigated rice did well as the rain had been sufficient to fill the tanks, and timely showers at the end of November ensured a fair rabi crop, though on a restricted area.

Trade and prices.

5. There was a brisk export trade especially in grain, which was brought about by the failure of crops in the north. It even drew upon the stocks in the remote States and some Chiefs wished to prohibit all export of food-grains, but were advised to refrain from interference with the course of trade. The Bengal-Nagpur Cotton Company installed machinery in the extension of their Mill at Nandgaon, and are doing much to stimulate the cotton industry in the western States.

Condition of the people.

6. The year was one of average prosperity, but the early failure of the monsoon caused some anxiety towards its close, especially in the western States and in those bordering on Rewah and in Makrai. Prices rose sharply, but no other signs of distress appeared, and rain at the end of November did much to relieve the situation in the States where the rabi crop is of importance. There was no increase in petty crime, and a State work which was opened in Kawardha in anticipation of distress attracted only a very few labourers. Plague was present at Nandgaon and caused some dislocation of business, but the people readily evacuated their houses and the disease was soon stamped out. There was a bad epidemic of small-pox in Sirguja, but elsewhere the year was a healthy one with low mortality and a birth-rate largely in excess of the death-rate.

Finance.

7. Financially the condition of the States is satisfactory and on the whole the Chiefs do not show any inclination towards a too lavish personal expenditure. In some of the States the unfavourable conditions of the latter half of the year caused a diminution of income, but Khairagarh was the only State in debt, while the Nandgaon State is in a particularly favourable position and has a large balance. The Chiefs of the Chota Nagpur States are adopting a regular system of budgetting such as has long been in force in the Chhattisgarh States.

Land Revenue.

8. The failure of the 1907 monsoon made it necessary for several of the States to suspend or refrain from collecting a portion of the land revenue demand which fell due at the close of the year. The deficiency was largest in Khairagarh. So much of the demand as it was deemed advisable to collect was realized without difficulty, and there was, as usual, little resort to coercive processes.

Settlement.

9. Settlement operations or measures preliminary to them were in progress in several States, and a beginning was made in Udaipur, the first of the Chota Nagpur States, to adopt a regular system of settlement. The people of this State show a disposition to welcome the introduction of fixed cash rents, in place of grain payments and miscellaneous dues, and the experiment, if successful, will probably be repeated by the Chiefs of the other Chota Nagpur States.

Law, Crime and Justice.

10. Crime was very light in the States, most of which offer a poor field for the professional criminal. An outbreak of plague at Nandgaon caused some rise in petty crime which was well dealt with by the local police. The administration of justice, both criminal and civil, was carried out with care and expedition and without undue delay or inconvenience to the parties. The question whether extended powers of criminal administration should be given to the Chota Nagpur Chiefs has not yet been decided. Civil litigation increased in volume, but most of the suits are still of a very petty nature.

Jails.

11. The daily average population in the State Jails fell from 535 to 422, owing partly to the decrease in cognizable crime and partly to the fact that the magistracy now refrain from passing sentences of imprisonment unless they are unavoidable. Juveniles are kept out of jail as much as possible. Jail accommodation is still defective in some of the Chota Nagpur States. In the Sirguja Jail there was high mortality, which received prompt attention. It is difficult to make imprisonment deterrent and to enforce strict discipline in the

smaller jails, where, owing to the paucity of convicts, very few are available for really penal labour after the number necessary for the necessary menial work of the jail have been told off, and for the same reason it is impossible in the smaller jails to undertake much remunerative work. Weaving of various kinds and oil-pressing are the two principal forms of labour.

Forests.

12. The income from forests fell from Rs. 4,81,102 to Rs. 3,67,830, owing chiefly to the failure of a Madras Company to work its contract in Bastar, and to a slack market for the myrabolam crop. The proposal to appoint an Agency Officer had to be abandoned as the Chiefs were not willing to support the scheme, and it would have been hardly possible for a single officer to obtain any real and close knowledge of the forests over so large and scattered an area as is comprised in the States. Proposals for the formation of selected reserves in Bastar are under consideration.

Excise.

13. Excise income increased as prospects were good in nearly all States when the auctions took place. Nandgaon is mainly responsible for the increase. There was a satisfactory reduction in the number of liquor shops which fell from 1,634 to 1,548. In Makrai the Chief has now established a central distillery, from which all retail vendors have to obtain their supplies.

Education.

14. Education, in which all the Chiefs are said to take great interest, made excellent progress, especially in Sirguja and Udaipur. Many new schools were opened and there was a large increase in the number of pupils, both boys and girls, attending them.

Rajkumar College.

15. The Rajkumar College had a successful year, and the pupils set a very good example by coming forward to be inoculated for plague when the disease appeared at Raipur. The young Chief of Sarangarh, though no longer at the College, still maintains a keen and active interest in the College. His attitude is evidence of a feeling which has not yet become a tradition of Indian College life and is therefore all the more welcome when it appears.

Public Works.

16. There was great activity in pushing on public works and the total expenditure in all States rose from Rs. 2,26,000 to Rs. 2,96,000 exclusive of establishment charges, which amounted to 15·23 per cent on the total charges. Very good progress was made in Bastar, a State which, during the period of its management by Government, has always freely utilized the services of the Executive Engineer of the Chhattisgarh States Division. It is, however, uncertain how far the six States which at present avail themselves of the services of the Executive Engineer will continue to do so. The expensive establishment charges are somewhat of a deterrent, and proposals are under consideration for reducing the establishment.

Berar.

17. There are no Feudatory States in Berar.

10—CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE

The season.

18. For the first nine months of 1907 the Provinces continued to enjoy the high degree of prosperity that has attended them of recent years. The kharif harvest reaped at the end of 1906 was a good one, especially in the rice districts, and was followed by an average rabi harvest. Trade flourished, labour commanded high wages, and commercial enterprise was active. But in the autumn of 1907 the premature cessation of the monsoon, which caused widespread famine in the United Provinces, was followed by a serious failure of the kharif crops, and it became evident that there would be a considerable degree of distress in the northern districts where the crop-failure had been greatest. A sudden rise of prices to famine level caused distress not only in those districts where the harvests were worst, but also to the town-population of the less affected tracts, and the weavers of Nagpur and Burhanpur especially felt the pinch. Early in 1908 it was found necessary to relieve these people at Burhanpur,

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE

and a small amount of famine relief was granted in the northern and central districts. The cold weather of 1907-08, however, brought good rain and the situation was largely saved by an unexpectedly good rabi harvest, with the result that up to the end of March 1908 there was no great extension of famine relief though prices continued at famine rates. Mortality remained very low, and the most affected districts were fortunate in escaping epidemic disease, though plague was prevalent in the south of the Provinces, and especially in Berar. There was some increase in crime. For the most part, however, the people showed a remarkable power of resistance to the calamity that had overtaken them. The agricultural classes were aided by liberal suspensions and remissions of revenue, and no difficulty was experienced in collecting the balance. The surplus labour that agricultural distress threw out of employment was not large; it was provided for by an extension of ordinary public works, and by the wide distribution of loans for works of agricultural improvement, which were readily accepted and usefully spent. The set-back was only a temporary one; it cannot be compared with the blow that was inflicted on the Provinces by the famines of 1897 and 1900, and in the absence of abnormal conditions the Provinces may confidently expect an early return of the prosperity that attended them during the first half of the year under report.

CHAPTER II

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND

1—REALIZATION OF REVENUE

REALIZATION OF REVENUE

[Resolution on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces for the year ending 30th September 1907 and of Berar for the year 1906-07.]

The Central Provinces.

19. Among the changes that occurred in the land revenue demand on the roll, the most important was an increase of Rs. 21,565 on account of the revision of assessment in the Chanda and Bilaspur districts. The total demand increased from Rs. 84,52,773 to Rs. 84,80,588. Collections were good. The whole of the arrear demand was collected except a sum of Rs. 1,19,000, which it was thought advisable to keep under suspension, while of the realizable demand for the current year amounting to Rs. 84,43,759 only Rs. 504 were left for collection at the close of the year. Concessions, partly in the form of remissions on account of local calamities such as rust or hail, and partly by the continuance of abatements in Balaghat, were granted in some cases, the total amount of which was a little over Rs. 12,000. Collections on account of miscellaneous revenue rose from Rs. 68,635 to Rs. 82,982, the increase of Rs. 15,000 being due entirely to the spread of the mining industry. In ryotwari villages the demand rose from Rs. 2,61,000 to Rs. 3,01,000, and of this latter all but Rs. 145 was collected.

Berar.

20. In Berar the total demand was Rs. 88,60,452 or Rs. 83,492 more than in the previous year, the increase being due partly to the introduction of revised assessments in Yeotmal and Buldana, and partly to the extension of cultivation. Of this demand 99·9 was collected, and the whole of the small balance was recoverable.

Coercive process.

21. In the Central Provinces the number of warrants of arrest fell from 172 to 102 and only one defaulter was sent to jail. Attachments of immoveable property increased slightly in number, but those actually effected fell in number from 452 to 335. The amount of coercion used was thus small. In ryotwari villages the whole of the revenue was collected without the issue of any process at all. In Berar, as is not uncommon in the similarly prosperous tracts of the Nagpur country, a good deal of coercion was necessary to secure payment of the revenue, but no person was sent to jail.

Government loans.

22. The Government Loan Account (principal) is shown in thousands of rupees in the following statement. The figures are for the financial year ending the 31st March 1908 :—

	Under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.		Under the Land Improvement Loans Act.	
	With interest.	Without interest.	With interest.	Without interest.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Outstanding at the commencement of the year, *i. e.*, on the 1st April 1907.	2,32	16	5,44	...
Remitted during the year 1907-08 ...	2	...	3	...
Collected do. ...	1,91	5	1,18	...
Advanced do. ...	3,17	...	12,59	...
Outstanding at the close of the year, *i. e.*, on the 31st March 1908.	3,56	11	16,82	...

REALIZATION OF REVENUE.

These figures, which show a large sum advanced under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, relate to a period ending six months after the end of the revenue year 1906-07 to which the foregoing paragraphs relate, and include the first part of the period of scarcity which followed the early withdrawal of the monsoon of 1907. As soon as distress seemed likely, landholders were encouraged to provide employment in their villages by carrying out works of agricultural improvement, and loans for this purpose, which were immediately offered under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, were readily accepted. The employment thus provided helped considerably in reducing the number of persons who looked to the State for employment, and special care was taken, by enquiry and inspection, to ensure that the money was not wastefully spent.

SURVEYS

2—SURVEYS

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1907.]

23. During the field season of 1906-07 the traverse survey of 134½ square miles was performed by the Imperial Survey Department, mostly in the Nimar district. The supplementary topographical survey of about 844 square miles in the districts of Saugor, Damoh, Narsinghpur and Chhindwara was also completed by that Department. In addition to these operations, cadastral surveys preliminary to re-settlement were carried on in Seoni and Damoh by the ordinary Land Record staff under expert supervision, but the work in Seoni was brought to a close before completion as the Government of India sanctioned an extension of the term of the current settlement. A beginning of survey prior to re-settlement was also made in Wardha.

SETTLEMENT.

3—SETTLEMENT

[Reports on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1907, and in Berar during the year ending the 31st May 1907.]

24. The orders of the Government of India on the final Settlement Report of the Drug district were received. That Government also sanctioned the proposals with regard to the re-settlement of the Seoni district, deciding that in the circumstances of the district re-settlement should not be undertaken, but that the term of the present settlement, which was fixed for short periods of 11 and 12 years, and would expire in the years 1908 and 1909, should be extended to the normal limit of 20 years. In Nimar a great deal of land has been excised from State forests in recent years for ryotwari settlement, and is readily taken up by cultivators from Berar, Khandesh and Indore. With the sanction of the Government of India, similar operations were undertaken in October 1906, and are still progressing. Sanction of the Government of India to the inception of the re-settlement operations in the Damoh district was received very shortly after the close of the year. Proposals to extend the current settlement of the malguzari portion of the Baihar tahsil to the year 1914 and to postpone the re-settlement of the ryotwari area until the year 1909 were submitted to the Government of India towards the end of the year and sanction has since been received. A Special Officer examined the condition of the Melghat taluq in the Amraoti district, with a view to the survey and settlement of the culturable area, and enquiries were made into the condition of the Pusad taluq in Yeotmal to see whether it had recovered sufficiently to allow of the introduction of the revised rates already sanctioned. The settlement operations in the following districts continue:—

Mandla.—Attestation was carried out in 345 villages and the Settlement Officer inspected 406 villages. Only 128 villages remained for attestation. Orders of the Government of India on the preliminary report for the Dindori tahsil were received. Rent-rate Reports for 340 villages and the assessment proposals for 488 villages of the Mandla tahsil were received and orders were passed on all but one of them. Proposals for the re-settlement of block villages were also received. The progress of the field and office work was much hampered by investigation into the damage to the crops by hail, the preparation and protracted check of grazing lists, extensive correction of maps and the unhealthiness of the tract. The expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 49,026.

Raipur (*Khalsa*).—All the 772 villages of Baloda Bazar tahsil were attested. Rent-rate Reports for 823 villages of the old Dhamtari tahsil and assessment reports for four groups were submitted. Announcement of revised rents and revenue was stopped in view of the unsatisfactory condition of the agricultural season. Map correction was also carried out in the Raipur and Mahasamund tahsils and the re-survey of 20 villages, map correction in 93 villages, and the renewal of the map sheets of 45 villages were completed during the year. Owing to the great size of the district the Raipur staff is a large one, and the expenditure of the year was Rs. 76,383.

Raipur (*Zamindaris*).—For the purpose of completing the settlement of the Phuljhar Zamindari, which belonged to the old Sambalpur district, and now forms part of the Raipur district, the Deputy Commissioner of Raipur was appointed as Settlement Officer in January 1907. Under his direction the Assistant Settlement Officer completed the announcement of kamil-jamas and the revision of rents in the summarily settled villages and the proposals for the fixation of the Zamindar's takoli were submitted.

Bilaspur (*Khalsa*).—The settlement operations were delayed as the Settlement Officer had had to correct much of the attestation done by his Assistants, and the outturn of work was small. Revenue Inspectors attested 223 villages and 256 were inspected by the Settlement Officer. Rent-rate Reports for 278 villages were submitted. The expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 49,168. Announcement was completed in the Chandrapur and Padampur groups of the old Sambalpur district which are now included in Bilaspur. The total expenditure on this work was Rs. 4,476.

Bilaspur (*Zamindaris*).—The work to be done lay in different directions which rendered supervision difficult. The unhealthiness of the tracts and the map correction work which had to be combined with attestation greatly hampered the progress of operations. Revenue Inspectors attested 405 villages and 428 were inspected by the Settlement Officer. The inspection of 81 jungly villages was also completed. Map correction work was effected in 571 villages constituting the Zamindaris of Bilaigarh, Bhatgaon, Champa and the bulk of Korba and Chhuri. Orders of the Government of India on the preliminary reports for the Kenda and Pendra Zamindaris and for the Pandaria Zamindari were received. The preliminary report for the Champa, Bhatgaon and Katgi Zamindaris, rent-rate reports in respect of 118 villages and assessment proposals for the Kanteli Zamindari were submitted during the year. The total cost of the operations during the year was Rs. 30,196.

Jubbulpore.—The orders of the Government of India for the inception of settlement operations were received and communicated after the beginning of the field season of 1906-07. The settlement staff joined the district late in the season and attestation work did not begin till February, but good progress was made in attestation and inspection. In this district time did not allow the usual expert map-correction procedure preliminary to re-settlement, but the maps of 578 villages were corrected. The preliminary report for the Murwara tahsil was submitted by the Settlement Officer. The progress of office work was retarded by an unhealthy season and had to be abruptly stopped owing to the failure of the kharif crop. The total expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 45,402.

Chanda (*Ryotwari*).—The closing of the settlement operations was delayed owing to miscellaneous matters of some importance. The assessment of a remainder of 33 ryotwari villages and the announcement of revenue in ryotwari villages were completed and the settlement of the district was brought to final conclusion. The total cost of this settlement, which was seriously delayed by the famine of 1900, has been a little over four lakhs of rupees, the cost per square mile being less than Rs. 51.

Nimar (*Ryotwari*).—Operations were started at the beginning of the field season of 1906-07, and included not only survey and enquiries preliminary to assessment, but also demarcation and formation of villages, as the areas were excised from Government forests. No assessment proposals were ready by the end of the year, but the submission of rent-rate proposals was begun. The year's expenditure amounted to Rs. 18,699.

SETTLEMENT

Mandla, Seoni, Raipur and Balaghat (Ryotwari).—In Mandla ryotwari villages are numerous, and their re-settlement was carried on along with the regular settlement of the district. Nothing deserving of mention was done in other districts except the submission of the assessment proposals for three villages in Seoni, one in Raipur and four in Balaghat.

LAND RECORDS

4—LAND RECORDS

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1907, and in Berar during the year ending the 31st May 1907.]

Establishment. 25. The staff of Circle Inspectors in Berar was increased from 62 to 81, and the Central Provinces system of granting field allowances for good work was introduced: otherwise no important changes were effected in the Land Record establishment. The revision of patwaris' circles in the lower taluq of Sironcha in the Chanda district was sanctioned and brought into force with effect from January 1907, resulting in an increase of the staff by one temporary Revenue Inspector for one year and one patwari. The Government made good the loss which some patwaris suffered by being unable to collect the outstanding balance of their dues from tenants in consequence of the abolition of the Patwari cess, a sum of Rs. 17,453 being sanctioned for the purpose. During the year sanction was accorded to remit by money-order at the expense of Government, the salaries of patwaris and Revenue Inspectors, whose circles are remote from the tahsil head-quarters. They are also to be given travelling allowance when called out of their circles on duty. Efforts are being made to make the Berar patwaris, like those of the Central Provinces, an efficient staff of surveyors, but progress is slow owing to the reluctance of the patwaris to accept the innovation. The necessity of their learning survey is, however, being insisted on.

Boundary marks. 26. Traverse marks are not uniformly well maintained. In Saugor and Damoh their condition is unsatisfactory, while in Raipur it has been found difficult to enforce their maintenance in Zamindari waste and forest, owing to the unwillingness of the headmen to do the work themselves. The condition of the boundary marks of survey-numbers in ryotwari villages is generally good. In Berar more careful inspection has revealed the fact that cultivators do not maintain their boundary marks so carefully as was believed to be the case.

Utilization of Land Records. 27. The Circle Note-books were brought up to date in all parts of the province except Bilaspur, Raipur, the Hatta tahsil of Damoh, and parts of Berar, their incompleteness in these areas being generally due to interruption of the usual Land Record work owing to settlement operations. The Village Note-books were generally up to date, but were still to be completed in a number of villages in the Drug, Bilaspur, Nimar, Damoh and Chanda districts.

Testing of Land Records. 28. The condition of village maps continues to show a steady improvement. The testing of village papers by Revenue Inspectors and Superintendents was fairly satisfactory in point of quantity, but there is still a tendency in some districts for the Revenue Inspectors to sacrifice thoroughness and to neglect other village records in order to attain a greater outturn of khasra checking. Deputy Commissioners and their Assistants did more checking, but there was a decline in the number of khasra entries checked by Tahsildars, who in spite of recent measures adopted to emphasize their authority over the Land Record staff have not yet fully realized their responsibility in the matter. The percentage of inaccuracies discovered in the khasra declined further from 1·17 to 1·00 and there was a similar decrease of mistakes discovered in the jamabandis, the percentage of inaccurracy being 1·22.

Conduct of the Land Record Staff. 29. Good results were achieved in the important matter of requiring patwaris to reside within their circles, the number of non-residents without permission being reduced from 306 to 246. Difficulty is experienced in securing men willing to reside in remote or jungly circles. The number of punishments inflicted upon patwaris fell from 1,438 to 1,348, but it is still the case that many inefficient patwaris escape dismissal owing to the difficulty of finding a competent successor, a difficulty which is certain to become more aggravated from year to year, until it is possible to grant increases in pay proportionate to the continued

LAND RECORDS

rise in prices and wage-rates. There was a slight increase in the punishments inflicted on Revenue Inspectors, but it was only found necessary to dismiss one Inspector during the year. The work of Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents and Revenue Inspectors was generally satisfactory.

5—WASTE LANDS

WASTE LANDS

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th September 1907, and in Berar for the year ending the 31st May 1907.]

30. Waste lands belonging to Government are settled direct with ryots both in the Central Provinces and Berar. In the Central Provinces the area available for this purpose is of importance only in Mandla, Nimar, Seoni, Chanda, Balaghat and Betul. Of the 327,000 acres available for allotment at the beginning of the year nearly one-sixth were allotted. In Berar, the demand for waste land slackened considerably, the residue available being generally of poor quality, and as 98 per cent of the assessed waste land has now been taken up, it is probable that the extension of cultivation has reached its natural limits, so far as available land is concerned.

6—GOVERNMENT ESTATES

GOVERNMENT ESTATES

31. There are no Government Estates in the Central Provinces or Berar.

7—WARDS' ESTATES

WARDS' ESTATES

[Report on the Management by Government of Private Estates for the year ending the 30th September 1907.]

The Central Provinces.

32. There were 78 estates under the management of the Court of Wards at the close of the year as compared with 81 at the beginning. Eight estates were released from superintendence, while three were taken under management including the important Seoni Diwan's estate. This fine property comprises more than a hundred villages, the majority of which have hitherto been held in ubari tenure under a nominal revenue. It is indebted to the extent of $2\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs, but has a large income and assets capable of great development.

Income.

33. The total gross income of the year amounted to Rs. 11,32,645 of which 63 per cent represents income from rents, theka-jamas, malikana and cesses, and 21 per cent the income from forests. Collections were good and compare favourably with those of private proprietors. Nearly 98 per cent of the current demand was collected from tenants, and the total collections, including arrears, amounted to nearly 102 per cent calculated on the current demand. Forests form a most important source of revenue in many estates and the receipts from this source in estates which appear in the returns for 1906 and 1907 rose from Rs. 2,11,000 to Rs. 2,35,000. Much attention has been paid of late to forest management, and the advice and assistance of Government Forest Officers has been taken with much benefit to the estates.

Expenditure.

34. The gross ordinary expenditure of the year was nearly 8 lakhs. Land revenue and cesses accounted for about 42 per cent of the total expenditure, while personal expenses absorbed 18 per cent. Over Rs. 21,000 were lent to tenants for the purchase of seed-grain and bullocks in addition to grain loans. The cost of management was 13 per cent of the income as compared with 14 per cent in the preceding year, the proportion being high in those estates which depend largely on their forests, for which a much larger establishment is needed than for rent collection.

Improvements.

35. The total expenditure during the year on estate improvements was Rs. 93,248 as against Rs. 62,700 in the previous year. Of the year's expenditure no less than Rs. 19,583 were spent in the Phuljhar estate alone. The improvements consisted chiefly of the construction of tanks, wells and roads, and sufficient attention was paid to the subject in all estates in which funds permitted.

Debt.

36. There was a large increase in the amount of debts owed by estates, which was due to the assumption of the Diwan's estate in Seoni with a debt of

WARDS' ESTATES

over 2¼ lakhs. Excluding this estate the outstanding debts were reduced during the year from Rs. 8,81,956 to Rs. 7,37,725. Nine estates were entirely freed of debt during the year, including the large and important estate of Ahiri in the Chanda district, and in no estate was there any enhancement of liabilities. With the exception of Gangai and Pitras in the Narsinghpur district, the financial prospects of all estates were satisfactory.

General.

37. Direct cultivation of the home-farm was carried on in 15 estates with greatly varying results, and the system of granting bonuses to kamdars and farm-hands, which was tried with success in two districts, was commended for general adoption. The care and education of the wards received proper attention and the accounts of their conduct are for the most part satisfactory. Some of the wards belong to families whose traditional backwardness and unenlightened attitude have brought them to the verge of ruin, and in such cases it is often very difficult to effect any change for the better ; but much is being done by giving them a close personal interest in the management of their estates, instead of allowing them to remain in a position of incurious isolation, excluded from active interest in their property, and subjected to such influences, interests and companions as chance or inclination may lead them to adopt. There has been a marked improvement in the relations of the Court towards its wards, who now show no more discontent than is common to a state of tutelage, and the reputation of the Court, which a few years ago was somewhat seriously shaken, is now fully re-established in public opinion.

Berar.

37-*a*. There are no Court of Wards estates in the Berar Division.

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES — 8—REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES

[Resolution on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th September 1907. Resolution on the Revenue Administration Report of Berar for the year ending the 31st May 1907.]

General conditions.

38. The monsoon of 1906 set in early, and the rain all over the province was well distributed and abundant. These conditions were exceptionally favourable to the rice and kodo crops but less so to the cotton and juari tracts of the Nagpur, Berar and Nerbudda Divisions. In the Chhattisgarh and Jubbulpore Divisions, in the Balaghat and Bhandara districts, and in the eastern parts of the Nagpur district, the outturn of the kharif harvest was very high and is said to have been one of the best known for a long time. The conditions for the rabi tracts were not so favourable, partly by reason of scanty or untimely rain, and partly on account of the ravages of hail-storms, but on the whole the rabi harvest was a fair one. The steady expansion of the area under occupation, which has been going on for some years past, continued, and in Berar the restriction on alienation does not appear to have had any effect on the demand for land. The condition of the agricultural classes materially improved all over the province. While high prices enabled the cultivators to dispose of their excellent crops to the best advantage, the labouring classes were benefited by a keen demand for labour and high wages. Among other causes that have operated to bring about this condition are the extension of manganese mining and of lac cultivation which have opened profitable subsidiary employment to the cultivating classes. That this general improvement and the prosperity of the agricultural classes has been real and not merely temporary, is borne out by recent events when a widespread serious failure of the monsoon and loss of crops were unaccompanied by widespread distress such as might have been expected. There has been a very distinct advance in the direction of agricultural improvement, although progress in permeating the great mass of cultivators with new ideas on agriculture is necessarily a very slow matter. District Agricultural Associations, though still in their infancy, have begun to arouse an increasing interest, an interest which is naturally more marked in the more advanced cotton and wheat districts than in the less prosperous rice country. There is now a small but growing demand for agricultural machines and improved implements, and the selection of seed is gaining more importance among some of the better cultivators. Co-operative Credit Societies have made a fair start in several districts, and the work of the Irrigation Department is more appreciated. The attitude of the people towards Government and Government measures has shown

no change for the worse, and the villagers generally are found to be unaffected by political movements, the interest in such movements being still confined to the towns; such discontent as exists among the agricultural classes can always be traced to definite grievances.

Tenants.

39. The total rental demand which increased by a little over 1½ lakhs amounted to 123·59 lakhs. Rental collections as might have been expected were good. Excluding the districts under settlement, for which statistics are not available, the collections on account of the current demand amounted to about 91 per cent, while collections of arrears brought the total up to the full year's demand. Hail and rust, together with disputes between co-sharers, account for short collections in some districts. As usual land held by tenants in absolute occupancy right declined in area, as the right is one that can be lost by surrender but not acquired in other land, while 25,000 acres were added to the area held in occupancy right, owing mainly to the conversion of the *sir* land of ex-proprietors into occupancy holdings by operation of law and to the acquisition in a few districts of occupancy rights by ordinary tenants. The area held in ordinary tenant right expanded by 172,000 acres, a clear indication of an active demand for land.

Landlords.

40. The landlords shared in the general prosperity of the season, and lambardars had little need for invoking the assistance of the courts in recovering the revenue from their co-sharers. Those who find difficulty in this matter have little hesitation in applying for partition, and there was a rise in the number of such applications. Compulsory sales of villages or shares of villages by order of the civil courts, in execution of decrees, were fewer than in the previous year, and at the sales agriculturists are believed to have held their own against the money-lending and commercial classes. The prices obtained at these sales, as compared with the land revenue payable on the property sold, indicate a very distinct rise in the value of land. Applications for permission to transfer the proprietary right in *sir* without restoration of the right of occupancy were almost exactly the same in number as in the previous year, and were successful in more than four-fifths of the cases. The area held as *sir* increased by 4,000 acres as a result of the conferral of this right at settlements in progress. In the latter months of the year when, owing to the early cessation of the 1907 monsoon, the tale of prosperity had turned to rumours of famine, little difficulty was found in obtaining the aid of the landlord class in helping the paupers of their villages, while loans for land improvements were freely taken and afforded most useful employment to those in need of it.

Landlords and tenants.

41. The relations between landlords and tenants were satisfactory and a tendency to oppression in Mandla was successfully checked. In the more advanced tracts the tendency is for the position of the tenant to become stronger, and comparatively little use is made of the provisions of the Tenancy Act under which an ordinary tenant can acquire occupancy rights, as the ordinary tenure is found to be sufficiently safeguarded by the law. There was a considerable decrease in the number of suits by landlords for arrears of rent, while tenants achieved an increased measure of success in applying for reinstatement after illegal ejectment. They also extended their share of the total occupied area, while the percentage held by landlords slightly decreased. All these signs are indicative, not only of the general well-being of the tenantry, but also of a growing realization of their rights. The present Tenancy Act has now been in force for ten years, and though it needs amendment in several particulars, its working during this period has not disclosed any serious defects leading to discontent or hardship.

CHAPTER III

PROTECTION

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

1—LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

42. The Legislative Authority for the Central Provinces is the Council of the Governor-General of India for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations. For Berar, legislation is effected by notifications issued by the Governor-General in Council under the power conferred on him by the Indian (Foreign Jurisdiction) Order in Council, 1902.

COURSE OF LEGISLATION

2—COURSE OF LEGISLATION

43. No Act specially affecting the Central Provinces was passed by the Imperial Legislature during the year. The following Acts were made applicable to Berar by notifications published in the *Gazette of India*, namely, the Excise (Amendment) Act (VII of 1906), the Transfer of Property Act (IV of 1882), the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (XI of 1890), the Poisons Act (I of 1904), the Provincial Insolvency Act (III of 1907), and the Indian Extradition Act (XV of 1903), except sub-sections (2) and (3) of section 1 and Chapters IV and V.

POLICE

3—POLICE

[Report on the Police Administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1907, and also Table No. VII of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1907-08.]

Crime.

44. There was a marked increase in crime, the total number of cognizable cases rising, after excluding petty nuisances and offences under by-laws, from 18,895 to 21,570. There was however nothing special in the circumstances of the year to which this increase can be ascribed. The first eight months were prosperous, and the fear of scarcity in the latter months does not seem to have affected the figures to any considerable degree. Plague was present, but not to a greater extent than in previous years, and the small amount of political unrest that existed is not believed to have produced any widespread diminution of respect for the law. The statistics of crime would appear to indicate a not unnatural reaction from the abnormally low figures of recent years, and not any general tendency to greater lawlessness. Improved reporting and registration also played their part in swelling the statistics, while a considerable increase in serious crime was caused by the presence of organized gangs of criminals, who appear to have made their way into these provinces under compulsion of increased police activity in the neighbourhood of their former haunts in the Deccan.

Offences against the State.

45. There were no important coin cases, and none of counterfeiting. Rioting cases, mostly regarding the possession of land, were numerous, but there was no rioting in defiance of the authority of the Government.

Offences against the person.

46. The number of murders rose to 209, a very high figure. The total number of serious offences against the person increased from 1,674 to 1,898, and included 36 cases of poisoning by drugs, the latter being largely due to the exploits of two previous convicts, who were caught and found guilty.

Offences against property.

47. The most important kinds of offences against property are dacoities, robberies and house-breakings, the last named forming the numerical bulk. Under all these heads there was an increase in crime, the total number of reports to the police rising from 5,869 to 7,164. The most serious feature of the returns is the increase in dacoities, the number of which rose in the Central Provinces from 15 to 26 and in Berar from 35 to 66. These were partly the work of two now notorious dacoits whose field of operations is the Yeotmal district, with occasional visits across the border of Hyderabad, and largely that of a large and organized gang of "Waddars" from Hyderabad, who have since been brought to book. The local bad characters occasionally combine for crime, but the history of the year shows with fair certainty that the more daring exploits were the work of gangs whose wandering habits make their arrest especially difficult. The Yeotmal dacoits were also responsible for 17 of the robberies committed in that district. The value of property stolen in house-breakings rose from Rs. 3,53,000 to Rs. 4,30,000, and was high, as might be expected, in the wealthy towns of Amraoti and Nagpur.

Police action

48. Investigation of reported cases was more frequent in the Central Provinces as compared with the previous year, and less frequent in Berar, though in this respect there is still a noticeable difference in that Berar investigates more than the Central Provinces, the difference being due partly to the greater importance of Berar cases and partly to the fact that the Berar police are not yet thoroughly accustomed to the principle, which has now been in force for some years in the Central Provinces, of not investigating petty cases in which there is little chance of an arrest, or in which the complainant does not desire action to be taken. In both provinces convictions followed investigations less often than in 1906, and this is partly because crime was more frequently the work of professional criminals. The proportion of persons convicted to those sent up for trial has fallen, and this is ascribed chiefly to a general improvement in the defence offered by accused persons, the rough-and-ready prosecution case being nowadays less likely to stand the strain to which it is subjected. Of the property stolen in cognizable cases the percentage recovered fell from 31 to 30. These results, while not a matter for congratulation, inasmuch as they fall away from those of previous years, are by no means discouraging, and the substitution of more refined police methods and of a more technical judicial system has not so far produced so much deterioration in statistical results as might be expected. The results achieved in Berar point generally to a lower state of efficiency than exists in the Central Provinces, but this is largely due to the inadequacy of the assistance given to the police by village officers in the former provinces. The important matter of improving the efficiency of village officers in Berar is now receiving careful attention, and there is no reason why, in a province where the position of patel or village headman is the object of keen competition and accounted a post of honour as well as of emoluments, the responsibilities of the post should not be as strictly enforced as its dignities are respected. In murder cases very commendable results were achieved by the Central Provinces police, and two captures of poisoners were smart pieces of work. Special measures of organization have been taken against the dacoits infesting Yeotmal and the Hyderabad border. The important preventive measure of prosecuting for vagrancy and bad-livelihood was freely used, and there was a large increase in prosecutions of this kind in Berar, where they are undoubtedly much needed.

Rural and Punitive Police.

49. There are no rural police in these provinces, except the village-headmen, who are assisted by the village-watchmen, and whose duties are to prevent and report crime and to aid in the surveillance of criminals. In the Central Provinces they generally perform these duties efficiently, but in Berar, as stated in the last paragraph, there is much room for improvement. It was found necessary to post punitive police to one village in the Wardha district.

Establishment.

50. Some further reforms sanctioned as the result of the Police Commission's report were introduced, but progress in this matter is necessarily slow in some directions, especially that of working up to the sanctioned strength of gazetted officers. One of the reforms of 1907 was the disenrolment of the office staffs, which had formerly consisted entirely of police officers and men and now consist of clerks. This step added to the provincial force some 200 posts of all subordinate ranks. Simultaneously with the addition of new posts some regrading was effected by which Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors obtained a great deal of promotion. The whole system of allowances was revised and the Police Commission scheme introduced, except that the grant of horse allowance was deferred as being too costly for introduction in 1907. The special armed reserves were increased in number from 250 to 325. There is still much way to be made up before the full sanctioned staff of gazetted officers is attained; out of 25 posts of Assistant Superintendents only 14 were filled at the end of the year, while only 7 Deputy Superintendents had been appointed out of a sanctioned total of 17. District Superintendents are thus still much handicapped by having their time taken up by a great deal of routine work. All posts of Sergeants were filled, but there remained 21 vacancies of Inspectors and 150 of Sub-Inspectors out of a strength which under the ultimate scheme includes 147 of the former and 669 of the latter. The shortage of men was 389 out of a sanctioned strength of 10,901. Recruitment, which is especially difficult in Berar, has received and is receiving a great deal of attention. The main difficulty is that in many districts local men of the right class either do not exist or will not

enlist, or if they enlist will not stay. Men from the United Provinces come for enlistment in greater numbers than before, but do not reach some of the southern districts which are those in which the enlistment of local recruits is most backward. In the northern districts local recruits can be obtained, but are inferior to the up-country candidates. The result has been that during the past few years up-country recruits have considerably exceeded those enlisted locally. At the same time resignations have been unduly numerous especially in the difficult southern districts. Shortage of buildings and of Sub-Inspectors prevented further progress in extending the scheme, already introduced in Raipur and Drug, of substituting self-contained station-houses under Sub-Inspectors for stations supplemented by out-posts under Head Constables. The Saugor Training School made good progress, the health and discipline of the pupils being excellent. The total cost of the district and provincial police rose, in consequence of the Police Commission reforms, from nearly 23 lakhs to nearly 25½ lakhs.

Discipline.

51. The punishment returns were low, and discipline was satisfactory. There is still plenty of room for improvement, especially among Sub-Inspectors, but the improved class of officers now being obtained from the Training School is already effecting a change for the better.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

4.—CRIMINAL JUSTICE

[Report on the Judicial Administration (Criminal) of the Central Provinces for the year 1907, and Table IV of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1907-08.]

Crime.

52. The total number of cases reported rose from 40,056 to 40,246, and of cases returned as true declined from 32,092 to 31,827. Owing largely to the policy of withdrawing the operation of Section 34 of the Police Act from towns where there is no resident magistrate, there was a decrease in offences under Special and Local Laws, and an increase in offences under the Indian Penal Code was mainly in petty cases of assault and hurt, which always yield a very low percentage of true cases. This and the decline in offences under Special and Local Laws, where the percentage of true cases is always very high, account for the fall in the number of cases returned as true. The most noticeable feature is the increase in the number of persons ordered to give security for good behaviour. This subject is noticed above in dealing with police action.

Courts of Original Jurisdiction.

53. The strength of the magistracy was further increased and stood at 437 at the close of the year. The Honorary Magistracy was still further strengthened in Berar, especially in the Amraoti District. This and the conferral of 3rd Class magisterial powers on Naib-Tahsildars, wherever a competent man was available, afforded relief to Tahsildars in their criminal work. Of the total number of cases disposed of by Magistrates ·8 per cent were dealt with by District Magistrates, 71·8 per cent by Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates and 27·4 per cent by Honorary Magistrates; for 1906 the corresponding percentages were ·9, 72·5 and 26·6 respectively. The percentage of convictions and commitments remained practically constant, but if the figures under the three heads of crime, "Hurt," "Criminal Force and Assault" and "Offences under Special and Local Laws," which obscure the true results, be omitted, the percentage of convictions rises to 46·5. This rise is accounted for by the increase in the number of hurt and assault cases, especially in Berar and in two similarly prosperous districts of the Central Provinces, Nagpur and Wardha, where the increase of wealth tempts the people to use the criminal courts as instruments of petty spite and vengeance.

The despatch of business.

54. The average duration of cases rose from 14·9 to 16·9 days in police cases and from 15·5 to 16 in complaint cases, the increase being serious in police cases of Berar, *viz.*, 13 to 17·9. More attention was paid to the useful provisions of Sections 203 and 250 of the Criminal Procedure Code, under which frivolous and vexatious complaints can be suitably dealt with, and much greater discretion was shown in the summoning of witnesses. Endeavours are being made, by the proper use of the sub-divisional system, to facilitate the despatch of business, but towards the end of the year the pressing demands of scarcity work on the time of Revenue Officers made it impossible for them to perform their magisterial duties so expeditiously as might otherwise have been possible.

55. The average duration of sessions cases rose from 50 to 55·4 days, the increase being due to heavier work in the Nerbudda Division, and to the fact that in that division many cases were committed shortly after the close of a session. There was a rise in the percentage of convictions in the Sessions Courts, and the general tendency towards a rise is in accord with the increasing percentage of sentences which are upheld on appeal by Sessions Judges, and indicates better working on the part of 1st Class Magistrates and the Police. **Sessions Courts.**

56. The volume of appellate work remained stationary in the Judicial Commissioner's Court, but increased in the Courts of District Magistrates and Sessions Judges. Nevertheless, District Magistrates managed to reduce the average duration of appeals from 19·4 to 18·5, while the durations in Sessions Courts rose only from 16· to 16·2. All three classes of courts show a higher percentage of cases in which the sentence of the lower court was not altered. **Appellate and Revisional Jurisdiction.**

57. Out of 40 death sentences 31 were confirmed in the Judicial Commissioner's Court, and of the balance, the sentence was reduced to transportation in 8 and to rigorous imprisonment in 1. Short-term sentences increased from 163 to 227, notwithstanding the increased use of Section 562, Criminal Procedure Code. There is a slight increase in the number of persons re-convicted, and 17 sentences of imprisonment were passed on juveniles. There was a fall in the number of sentences of fine, but the total amount imposed rose from Rs. 1,53,225 to Rs. 1,59,547. The general rise in the standard of wages has made it possible to impose larger fines, and the high percentage of realizations (89·6) indicates that in this matter the Magistrates have used their discretion wisely. The number of sentences of whipping increased very slightly, and effect has been given to the orders of the Government of India regarding the manner in which these sentences should be executed. **Punishments.**

5—PRISONS

PRISONS.

[Report on the Jails of the Central Provinces for the year 1907, and Table V of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1906-07.]

58. Except the reduction of the Ellichpur Subsidiary Jail to a Police lock-up there was no change in the number or classification of jails during the year. The main features of the year's administration were a further fall in the jail population, a marked decrease in the cost of maintenance, a very large increase in cash earnings, and a rise in the death-rate. **General.**

59. The number of prisoners has decreased steadily in recent years, and in 1907 there was a further fall from 3,365 to 3,282 in the average number confined. The year was, for the most part, one of agricultural prosperity, and though the last three months witnessed the beginning of a period of scarcity there was little indication in the figures for the more distressed districts to show that the pinch had been felt severely enough to cause that increase in crime which is the usual accompaniment of agricultural distress. **Jail population.**

60. Increased attention was paid by District Magistrates to the important subject of keeping juvenile convicts out of jail, and only 16 persons under 16 years of age were admitted. The question of providing separate accommodation for juvenile convicts is receiving attention, and proposals were received from the Inspector-General for the conversion of the Narsinghpur Jail into one for the reception of juvenile adults.

61. There was a slight decrease in the ratio of habitual offenders to the total number of convicts admitted. The policy of separating habitual criminals from others received special attention, and a measure was sanctioned under which all habituals sentenced to imprisonment for six months and over are transferred to Central Jails. Hitherto it has been the practice to transfer long-term prisoners from the Central Jail to the District Jail nearest their homes two months before their release. This period, which gives time for habitual offenders to contaminate casual prisoners in the District Jail, among whom they must necessarily be

placed, has now been reduced to a fortnight, during which the habitual offenders are, as far as possible, kept apart from casual convicts. Efforts were made, with partial success, to secure employment for habitual offenders after their release.

Discipline.

62. Discipline was satisfactory and only one assault was serious enough to be brought before a criminal court. The percentage of offences followed by corporal punishment fell slightly, but on the whole the punishment roll was a heavier one than in the previous year. The Jubbulpore Jail has had an unenviable reputation for punishments in recent years, and it is satisfactory to record a reduction in the number of its inmates punished, while at the same time the efficiency of labour at this jail has been more than maintained.

Health.

63. Notwithstanding a marked fall in the average daily number of prisoners on the sick list, there was a large increase in the death-rate which rose from 13 to 18 *per mille* in respect of convicts and from 20 to 29 in respect of under-trial prisoners. It should be mentioned, however, that the death-rate of the previous year was exceptionally low and less than that returned by the jails of any other province, while the death-rate of 18 *per mille* in 1907 is still quite low and compares favourably with that of any place or of any class of people in India. Cholera was present in several districts, but was successfully kept out of all the jails.

Jail industries.

64. Excellent results were attained by the manufacturing industries at the Jubbulpore and Raipur Central Jails, and over the whole province there was a very large increase from Rs. 1,13,148 to Rs. 2,19,226 in the net cash earnings from manufactures. The importance of adopting more business-like methods was firmly insisted on, and careful attention was paid to the prompt collection of money due.

Cost of Jail administration.

65. The average net cost per prisoner to Government, after deducting cash earnings, was only Rs. 25-4-0, a very low figure, while the average cost of custody, food, clothes and medical attendance fell from Rs. 97-3-2 to Rs. 92-0-7. This reduction is all the more noteworthy when it is remembered that it was effected in a year throughout while the prices of food stood at a very high level and rose to famine rates in the autumn. It was due to the careful watching and selection of markets, and also to the devotion of increased attention to jail gardens which aid considerably in reducing the cost of dieting. Attention to garden management has been stimulated and encouraged by the grant of special monthly cash allowances to warders who maintain their gardens successfully.

CIVIL JUSTICE

6—CIVIL JUSTICE

[Report on the Judicial Administration (Civil) of the Central Provinces for the year 1907 and Table III of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for the year 1907-08.]

Character of litigation.

66. Litigation in the combined provinces as a whole and in most districts may be said to have maintained the level of 1906. Only three districts, Nagpur, Nimar and West Berar, show any remarkable fluctuation. In Nagpur the number of suits instituted and re-instituted rose by 1,901, and in Nimar and West Berar it declined by 1,074 and 959, respectively. Except a certain degree of scarcity in the northern districts, which had hardly time to affect the statistics of litigation before the year closed, there was nothing in the circumstances of the province which could be expected to affect the work of the courts to any considerable extent.

67. In the Central Provinces the number of suits for money or moveables, and of title and other suits, corresponds very closely to that of 1904, but suits under the rent law have steadily declined in number since that year. Notwithstanding this fall suits for ejectment or recovery of possession remain steady in number, and the cause of the fall in the volume of rent litigation is probably to be found in the more thorough application and realization of the principle of granting remissions or suspensions of rent under Section 18 of the Tenancy Act, when similar concessions are granted to landlords in repect of revenue. There was a total rise of 3 lakhs in the value of suits. In the Central Provinces more than one-seventh of the total number of suits did not exceed Rs. 10, while in Berar only 1 suit in 46 was of such small value. At present a comparatively small number

of petty suits for money are disposed of by the summary procedure of a Small Cause Court, and the principle of investing Subordinate Judges with Small Cause Court powers, which has now been adopted in some cases, may require extension if the disposal of business is to be reasonably facilitated.

Pending suits.

68. Special attention to old and complicated cases increased the pending file, but while the number of suits pending over three months rose from 8,992 to 9,896, the number pending over six months fell from 4,533 to 3,939. In Berar the average duration of suits, both contested and uncontested, continues to be about double that in the Central Provinces, and very considerably raises the provincial average. A decline from 6·3 to 5·7 in the average number of hearings of such suits indicates an improvement in methods of working, and is due to the grant of priority to cases in which evidence is to be heard over those in which only issues have to be settled.

Execution of decrees.

69. The number of applications for execution declined by nearly 5·7 per cent and was accompanied by a fall in realizations amounting to 4·3 per cent. Of the total number of applications disposed of 6·1 per cent were transferred, 55·1 were wholly infructuous, 16·7 were satisfied in part and 22·1 were satisfied in full. Berar is conspicuous for the small proportion of applications in which any degree of satisfaction was obtained.

Appellate litigation.

70. There was a further rise from 353 to 474 in the number of files pending in the court of the Judicial Commissioner, while the average duration of regular and miscellaneous appeals rose from 114·9 and 73·8 to 138·7 and 121, respectively. This was due to the absence of one of the Judges on leave for six months with no corresponding addition to the staff. Appellate work in the courts of the Divisional Judges was heavier than in 1906, the total number of appeals rising from 460 to 483 and the pending file from 113 to 139. A slight though all-round improvement was noticeable in the appellate work of the District Courts. The pending file was smaller than at the end of 1906 and the improvement in duration was shared by nearly every district. The duration of appeals from decrees fell in East Berar from 191·1 to 134·6 and in West Berar from 165·2 to 98·9.

Miscellaneous.

71. Towards the close of the year the Secretary of State sanctioned the permanent retention of the Second Additional Judicial Commissioner. The scheme for improving the pay and prospects of the Judicial Services received the sanction of the Secretary of State in August 1907 and was brought into force at the beginning of the current year. The improvement thus effected in pay and prospects has already given a most marked stimulus to recruitment, and graduates in law are now found ready to enlist as Munsiffs. No Subordinate Judge now draws less than Rs. 300 a month, and the pay and grading of Munsiffs have been assimilated to those of Tahsildars in these Provinces and of Munsiffs in the Punjab. Considerable progress was made in providing proper accommodation for the courts, but in some cases building was deliberately postponed, until some idea could be found of the lines on which the judicial system should be developed in order to secure more speedy disposal of sessions cases, and to obviate the waste of power involved in maintaining a District Judge in every revenue district irrespective of the volume and character of its litigation.

7—REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION

[Report on the working of the Registration Department in the Central Provinces and Berar during the three calendar years 1905, 1906, and 1907, and Table IX of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1907-08.]

Registrations affecting immoveable property.

72. Compulsory registrations affecting immoveable property rose from 51,666 in 1906 to 53,180 in 1907. Instruments of sale and mortgage account for the bulk of the registrations, and there has been a decrease in sales, but an increase in mortgages. During the past three years, as might be expected in a period of steadily increasing prosperity, mortgages have increased in far greater proportion than sales, and it is noticeable that it is in the wealthy cotton districts that mortgages are most frequent. The greater the value of his land the more will the land-holder borrow on it, partly no doubt for the improvement of his agriculture, but largely to meet increased expenditure on weddings, litigation and

a rising standard of comfort. Creditors are willing to renew mortgages, when otherwise they would have proceeded to sale or foreclosure. As usual most of the mortgages are in favour of non-agriculturists, but in respect of outright sales, both of villages and plots, agriculturist purchasers have more than held their own. Optional registrations have for years shown a steady decrease, recently aided, but not wholly accounted for, by the amendment of the Transfer of Property Act in 1904, which made compulsory the registration of mortgage deeds where the principal money secured is less than Rs. 100. To the uncertainties of plague is attributed an increase in the number of deeds of gift and wills registered.

Registrations affecting immoveable property.

73. There has been a steady fall in registrations of sales of immoveable property, and those affected have been largely in the Nimar District, where the practice of effecting *benami* sales of crops, in order to defeat creditors, is common.

Miscellaneous.

74. Receipts rose to Rs. 2,32,000, or 28 per cent above those of the previous year, the increase being partly due to a rise in the number of transactions and partly to the rising value of land. In the Central Provinces the transfer of the work of registration from Revenue Officers and schoolmasters, who were *ex-officio* Sub-Registrars, to salaried Sub-Registrars appointed under the reorganization scheme sanctioned by the Government of India, has contributed to the efficiency of the department. The staff in Berar is reported to be inferior. Provision was made in the budget for the reorganization and regrading of the Berar staff of Sub-Registrars and muharrirs, as well as of the menial establishments in Berar and the Central Provinces, but the reform had to be postponed on account of other more pressing financial demands. The system of taking thumb impressions is working satisfactorily, and has altogether put a stop to attempts at personation.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

8—MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

[Resolution on the working of the Municipal Committees of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1907-08, and Table XVII-1, 2-L, 3-L and 4 of the Judicial and Administration Statistics of British India for the same year.

Number and constitution of Municipalities.

75. The number of Municipalities at the close of the year was 57 or one less than in the preceding year owing to the reduction of the Betul Municipality to the status of a notified area. In all the Municipalities in the Central Provinces, with the exception of Pachmarhi, Kalmeshwar and Khapa, a proportion of members were elected, while in Berar in 6 out of the 13 Municipalities all members were appointed *ex-officio* or by nomination. The principle of appointment by election has now been introduced in the Municipalities of Yeotmal and Karanja. In Nagpur new rules regarding the qualifications of the electorate, based on the more logical ground of the payment of a certain amount of Municipal taxes with special provisions for the representation of the Mill and Factory interest and the learned professions, have been framed, and a proposal is now under consideration for the introduction of similar qualifications in all the larger and wealthier Municipalities in the province.

Income.

76. The total income of all the Municipalities, excluding loans and account heads, was Rs. 20,88,241 against Rs. 20,50,375 in the preceding year. Over two-thirds of this income, or slightly below 14½ lakhs of rupees, was derived from Municipal rates and taxes, the revenue from fees and Municipal property amounting to nearly 3½ lakhs, while contributions of about Rs. 70,000 were received from Government and Rs. 45,000 from other sources. The largest increase in income occurred at Jubbulpore (Rs. 20,174) and Khandwa (Rs. 23,974), while smaller increases are shown by Basim, Bhandara, Seoni and Bilaspur. The rise in receipts at Jubbulpore, Seoni and Khandwa was mainly due to increases in octroi and water-rate. The income derived from octroi taxation rose from Rs. 7,91,774 to Rs. 8,10,852. Jubbulpore shows an increase of Rs. 24,587 ascribed to the return of normal conditions after epidemics of plague and Nagpur a decrease of Rs. 25,106 attributed to an outbreak of plague and to general high prices. The income from other taxation rose from Rs. 5,63,343 to Rs. 6,20,298, owing mainly to increases under water-rates and conservancy.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

77. The total opening balance of all the Municipalities at the beginning of the year was Rs. 10,76,739, the total receipts amounting to Rs. 24,73,087, making a sum of Rs. 35,49,826 available for expenditure. The total disbursements, including extraordinary and debt heads, amounted to Rs. 27,94,610, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 7,55,216, inclusive of deposits. The actual expenditure, excluding extraordinary and debt heads, amounted to Rs. 23,78,640, an increase of Rs. 4,86,913 over the expenditure of the previous year. The expenditure in capital outlay on water-works and drainage rose from Rs. 88,263 to Rs. 3,51,855, but the increase is wholly accounted for by a sum of 3 lakhs taken as a loan by the Jubbulpore Municipal Committee and transferred to the Public Works Department for the extension of the Jubbulpore water-works. Excluding this sum there was a decrease under both heads. In Nagpur, where the existing water-supply is rapidly becoming inadequate for the growing needs of the town and the Civil Station, a scheme, at the cost of 10 lakhs, for providing a new source of supply, has been completed, and it is hoped that work will be started in the current year. Arrangements for the completion of the water-works at Harda, and the substitution of an iron main for the earthenware pipes at Seoni are under consideration. Schemes are also being drawn up for the improvement of the water-supply at Amraoti, Akola and Shegaon, where the existing provision is insufficient to meet the needs of the population. A comprehensive scheme for the drainage of Nagpur City is under preparation and other drainage schemes in Jubbulpore, Wardha, Harda, Khandwa and Burhanpur are contemplated. In Berar also drainage schemes have been drawn up in several of the larger towns, but the projects require to be examined by a sanitary expert. Drainage is still one of the principle needs of Municipalities in these provinces. Expenditure on lighting increased from Rs. 46,824 to Rs. 58,873 and on roads from Rs. 1,64,391 to Rs. 2,40,255, the letter increase being mainly due to extensive street improvements in Nagpur, for which a loan was expressly sanctioned. The subject of protection from fire needs more attention than it receives.

Expenditure.

78. No new loans were advanced to Municipalities during the year, and the number which had taken loans remained at 10, 8 having borrowed from Government and 2 from private persons. The second half of the loan of 3 lakhs, granted to the Jubbulpore Municipality for the extension of water-works, was taken in full. The total outstanding balance for the provinces is Rs. 11,03,701, the balances against Nagpur and Jubbulpore, the two largest borrowers, being Rs. 2,71,920 and Rs. 3,84,945, respectively. The financial position of both the Municipalities is sound. The Nagpur Municipality started with an opening balance of Rs. 2,50,784, its receipts amounted to Rs. 5,25,153 and its disbursements to Rs. 6,82,250, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 93,687. A proposal to grant a loan of $7\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs in instalments extending over a period of three years for the new water-works scheme known as the Gorewara Project has already been submitted to the Government of India and a further loan will be required for the drainage scheme. The resources of the Committee are adequate to finance both these schemes. The opening balance of the Jubbulpore Municipality was Rs. 1,79,769, its total receipts (including the Government loan of a lakh and a half) Rs. 4,36,342 and its disbursements Rs. 5,96,684, the balance in hand at the close of the year being Rs. 19,427. The financial position of the other Municipalities, which have taken loans, continues to be satisfactory.

Loans.

9—DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS

DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS

[Resolution on the working of the District Councils and Local Boards for 1907-08, and Table XVIII of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics for British India for the same year.]

79. There was no change in the number of District Councils and Local Boards during the year, but the constitution of some was modified. All the District Councils held at least the prescribed minimum number of meetings, but nine of the Local Boards in the Central Provinces and two of the Taluq Boards in Berar failed to do so. The average attendance of members was somewhat poor. Various reasons have been assigned both for failure to hold meetings and for poor average attendance. There is reason to fear that both are due to the apathy

Number, constitution, meetings and attendance.

DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS

of members, and the removal of conspicuous absentees can never be an effectual remedy unless substitutes who are ready to take a greater interest in the proceedings are available. Amendments recently proposed in the Village Sanitation and Local Self-Government Acts, which are designed to transfer to District Councils and Local Boards the control over and income from village markets, will, it is hoped, go some way to remove this apathy in District Fund affairs by providing the District Council with a direct source of income apart from contributions, and the Local Board members with congenial occupation in the shape of market management in their own circles. The transfer of duties from District Councils to Local Boards, which took place in November 1907, has not been in force long enough to admit of any forecast of its ultimate success, but the change seems likely to secure more vitality and interest in Local Board proceedings.

Income.

80. In the Central Provinces, despite a reduction of Rs. 40,489 in receipts from provincial rates, due to suspensions of land revenue on account of scarcity, there was a small increase in income. Pounds contributed substantially increased income, owing to strayals of cattle in consequence of shortage of fodder after the failure of the rains. In some cases proposals have been made for raising the scale of fines, and it seems possible that there is scope for similar action in other parts where grazing is scarce and the pressure of cultivation is great. The only notable decrease in receipts was one of Rs. 9,633 in respect of contributions. This occurred in the special assignments in aid of District Funds made over and above the fixed contribution of Rs. 5,27,000. In Berar a discontinuance of the practice of crediting Education fees to the Council resulted in a decrease of Rs. 25,511 in receipts under that head and converted what would otherwise have been a surplus into a deficit of Rs. 18,860 in total income as compared with the previous year. On the whole considering the scarcity conditions which prevailed during the last five months of the year, the income of the Councils, setting aside the pound receipts, was remarkably steady.

Expenditure.

81. Expenditure rose from 23 to 25 lakhs of rupees, and was more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs in excess of income. The balances from which the excess was met were substantial, and the reduction in their amount, which was due to increased expenditure on such useful objects as raising the pay of teachers in primary schools and on school-buildings, cannot but be regarded as satisfactory. Expenditure on pounds decreased owing to better management, and the appointment of special Inspectors, which has worked with success in Chhattisgarh, is being extended to other parts of the provinces. A special feature of the year was the progress made in the erection of school-buildings, and apart from the expenditure on this account, education absorbs 32 per cent in the Central Provinces, and 25 per cent in Berar, of the total amount spent by the Councils. Expenditure on medical objects increased, some of it being devoted to the prevention of plague, but fortunately the finances of the Councils were spared the strain of any serious outbreak. There was a small increase in Veterinary expenditure, and a large one in expenditure on Civil works, especially school-buildings and communications.

MILITARY.

10—MILITARY (VOLUNTEERING)

Number of active Corps.

82. There are two Volunteer Corps in the provinces, the Nagpur Rifles and the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Rifles.

The Nagpur Volunteer Rifles.

83. The enrolled strength of the Nagpur Volunteer Rifles rose from 636 to 787, of whom 23 were commissioned officers. Of this total figure 543 were extra-efficient, 220 efficient and 24 non-efficient. The marksmen numbered 217 as against 125 last year. The expenditure was heavy, and a large sum had to be taken again from the capitation grant to meet the cost of the band. Funds are much needed for the acquisition of new rifle-ranges, and for the repair of those which exist. The camp-of-exercise was held in January 1908: it was attended by 12 officers and 351 men, of whom 7 officers and 315 men were present at the annual inspection. The mounted troop made good progress, the number of efficients rising from 45 to 62.

The Bengal-Nagpur Railway Rifles.

84. The Bengal-Nagpur Railway Corps is divided into two battalions, the first which is under the administrative control of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal having its head-quarters at Kharagpur in Bengal, and the second at Nagpur. The total enrolled strength of the second battalion on the 31st March 1908 was 512 including 10 officers as against 530 in the previous year. Only 6 men failed to qualify as efficients or extra-efficients. The financial position of the Corps is very satisfactory. A camp-of-exercise of both battalions was held at Sini, and was attended by 151 officers and men of the second battalion, the various schemes being in connection with the defence of the railway.

CHAPTER IV

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

AGRICULTURE

1—AGRICULTURE

[Reports on the working of the Department of Agriculture and on the Agricultural Stations of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th June 1908: Report on the working of the Civil Veterinary Department of the Central Provinces during the year ending the 31st March 1908, and Report on the working of Co-operative Credit Societies, Central Provinces and Berar, for the year 1907-08.]

Agricultural education.

85. The conversion of the Agricultural School into a College has been carried into effect, but it will be some years before the full results of the change will be apparent. Owing to insufficient grounding in past years, only three students of the previous year remained to take the third-year course and only one student out of three secured the diploma. Progress has, however, been made in other directions. The syllabus has been altered, plans and estimates for the new laboratory have been passed, classes are growing, passes obtained, and amongst the first-year students promising material is reported. Disinclination to practical work, which has caused violent fluctuations in the numbers of students of that year, continues the main obstacle to success, and it is proposed to prescribe an actual practical test before admission, which should go far to remove it. The utility of the malguzari class continues to be affected by the failure of the boys after passing through the course to put in practice what they have learnt. This reluctance must gradually disappear, as more of the methods inculcated by the Department pass beyond the experimental stage. Meantime, much may be done by increased care in the selection of the family from whom the boy is taken and by the continued cultivation by the master of friendly relations with him after he has left the class.

The Agricultural Gazette continues to increase in popularity and the articles contributed to it are now of a high standard of merit. Carefully translated, it proves a useful means of keeping a certain class of cultivators in touch with the work of the Department, and its circulation has increased from 2,995 to 3,140.

Agricultural experiments.

86. The unfavourable character of the monsoon which closed in September seriouly interfered with experimental work, and it was only at the Raipur station that reliable results were generally obtained. In Akola the separate cultivation of the four varities of cotton commonly grown together under the name of *jari* or *kati vilayti*, but all botanically distinct, has been carried out. Experiments up to date have tended to show the *malvensis* variety, which has the longer staple, to be the most profitable in a year when the value of the lint is high. The *buri* cotton imported from the Sonthal Parganas of Bengal promises to be a valuable crop, and its progress in the estimation of cultivators and spinners will be watched with interest. At Labandih the problem how to improve the breed of bullocks so as to render them fit to meet the requirements of more careful cultivation has led to experiments in fodder grasses and fodder crops. At present a wild lucerne is being tried, but final conclusions have not yet been arrived at. Another experiment, which is likely to be profitable, shows that October rain is not essential to a medium paddy grown on light clay soil which is plentifully irrigated in the preceding months. The shortage of the monsoon greatly impeded operations at Powarkhera and Nagpur. But jute was sown with most successful results beneath Telinkheri, and the possibility of growing the crop with profit in these provinces below tanks which retain water in the hot-weather, has been fully demonstrated.

Agricultural enquiry and demonstration.

87. With the enlargement of the staff a considerable amount of analytical and research work has been carried out. An analysis of soils, survey and classification of various varieties of crops and the study of insect pests have been undertaken, and a useful foundation has been laid for discoveries which may be of considerable benefit to the cultivator in the future. As a result of these enquiries

the existence of a very serious pest in the potato has been discoverd, and an attempt will be made to deal with it in the current year. The most successful demonstration work was carried out in Chhattisgarh in co-operation with the Irrigation Officers, and very practical results have already been achieved. The object has been to replace by transplantation the present method of rice cultivation, and already as a result of the demonstration 1,000 acres have been put under transplanted rice by the cultivators themselves. Every effort is being made to perpetuate and spread the movement by the loan of trained ploughmen to neighbouring landlords and by the provision of a local training class. An excellent beginning has been made and the results will be watched with interest. The cotton-seed farms have now been in existence for three years, and though the experiment presents some encouraging features, the object to be attained, namely, the supply of superior seed by private agency, seems to be still remote. Efforts will now be directed rather to freeing the farms from financial dependence on Government than to starting fresh ones. If the value of the seed produced is 50 to 100 per cent higher than ordinary hand-ginned seed, as the experiment at Wardha would indicate, there is every hope that it will be only a matter of time before the farms become self-supporting. The cost of the experiment, *viz.*, Rs. 1,079, was defrayed by funds placed at the disposal of the Government of India by the British Cotton Growing Association. A subject to which much attention is paid is the advertisement and demonstration of improved implements. Certain of the simpler kinds recommended by the Department are gradually obtaining a sale, chief of which are the turnwrest-plough, corn-shellers, American winnowers and chain pumps. It is doubtful whether the more elaborate labour-saving appliances imported from America will ever find much favour in a country where labour is comparatively cheap.

District Associations.

88. Great importance is attached to the organization of agricultural associations. They constitute a representative body of land-owners familiar with the objects and aims of the Department, and, as the experience in Raipur proved, are, when occasion arises, useful intermediaries in the introduction of improved methods.

Co-operative Credit Societies.

89. Owing to scarcity and to the desire to test by experience the suitability of the various forms of societies already registered, active measures were not taken to promote the formation of new co-operative credit societies. The number registered at the end of the year stood at 4 central, 7 urban and 69 rural societies against 3 central, 4 urban and 63 rural existing at the close of last year. Membership, however, rose from 2,515 to 3,777 and working capital from Rs. 79,135 to Rs. 1,61,605. The increase in membership is evidence of the popularity of the societies, but not of good management, since in almost every case the capital is insufficient to meet the legitimate demands of members. The increase, of capital is in the main a symptom of the effects of the crop failure, which necessitated additions to capital to provide for fresh advances while existing loans were still unpaid. The most urgent needs of the movement are the provision of capital and the cultivation of the co-operative conscience.

Experience everywhere, but more particularly in Chanda and Akola, has proved that the rural society, without some central organization to support it, cannot secure the capital required, and it is probable that a combination of central and urban society lending to rural societies through a federation is likely to prove the most suitable organization.

The central banks at Kirnapur and Betul did well financially. The total working capital of the banks is Rs. 30,001, most of which consists of share capital and deposits by members. Kirnapur earned a profit of 8 per cent on working, and Betul of $7\frac{1}{2}$ on paid-up capital. But both societies failed to meet the distress by an increase in capital. The failure is ascribed in the case of Kirnapur to apathy induced by over-centralization, and a revised set of by-laws designed to emphasize the interests of individual societies is contemplated. In Betul the necessary funds were provided in the shape of a taccavi loan of Rs. 6,500 advanced on the usual terms to the rural societies. The Sihora Central Bank did not commence operations till the year was well advanced and figures for the complete year are not available, and the Sironcha Bank in the Chanda District was not registered till just before the close of the year.

90. The working capital of the urban banks amounts to Rs. 49,388, most of which was raised by shares or deposits of members. Setting aside the official banks, which are in reality more of the nature of provident societies, Burhanpur and Harda are the two banks of this class which are progressing most satisfactorily. Membership increased from 667 to 1,067 and repayments were on the whole made with regularity. The bank at Burhanpur, which was established for the benefit of the weaver community located there,—a class particularly hard hit by high prices coming in a *Singhast* year,—advanced Rs. 10,450 to its members, and was most successful in collecting Rs. 10,001 out of a current and arrear demand of Rs. 13,280. Although with good management more capital than they possess could be profitably used in these societies, there was a balance of Rs. 6,470 lying idle at the end of the year. The necessity for this is not immediately apparent in the case of societies making loans for other than agricultural purposes, and it is a matter to which the respective committees might profitably pay more attention.

91. Excluding the Chanda and Balaghat societies for which figures are not available, membership of rural societies has increased from 1,597 to 2,395 and the working capital from Rs. 27,389 to Rs. 75,063. For both increases Betul is mainly responsible. Owing to the circumstances of the year it was inevitable that loans should not in the majority of these societies be punctually repaid. It is indeed a matter for surprise, not that repayment was delayed, but that so large a sum as Rs. 33,420 was realized by rural societies on this account. On the whole the co-operative movement has stood the test of scarcity remarkably well, and the experience of the year has strengthened the estimation in which the societies are held.

The Veterinary Department.

92. The Veterinary Department is passing through a transition state as its provincialization, which has now been sanctioned, will not actually come into force until the 1st March 1909. Nevertheless, there was considerable progress during the year. The staff of Veterinary Inspectors was increased by two, and one new dispensary was opened. Hitherto inadequate recruitment has been one of the main obstacles to progress and the closing of the Ajmere Veterinary School and of the Salutri class at the Bombay College has increased this difficulty, but with the provincialization of the Department, and the consequent increase in the scale of pay of Veterinary Assistants, it is hoped that the improvement in prospects will attract more candidates of a suitable class. Peripatetic work has increased, and the most gratifying feature of the year is the marked increase in the number of inoculations, the number of cattle so treated having risen from 11,519, in 1906 to 32,395 in 1907. The conversion of the people to a belief in inoculation as a safeguard against rinderpest infection has been in some places most striking. There has also been a considerable increase both in the number of cases treated at dispensaries and in the number of villages visited by itinerant Veterinary Assistants. The Government cattle-breeding farm at Telinkheri is in a thriving condition. Many of the Malvi cattle on the Government farm at Powarkhera are not true to type and the herd requires new blood. The distribution of bulls to stock-owners, with the object of improving the local breeds of cattle, is not so successful as was anticipated, as the stock-owners do not always take sufficient care of the animals sent to them, and the question of altering the present system is under consideration.

2—WEATHER AND CROPS

WEATHER AND CROPS

[Season and Crop Report of the Central Provinces for the year 1907-08; volume of Agricultural Statistics of India, Part I, 1907-08.]

Rainfall.

93. The monsoon of 1907 was established in the third week of June, or about a week late. The June rainfall was deficient throughout the province by about 13 per cent on the average, but was particularly short in the northern and Nerbudda Valley districts. Kharif sowings were, however, timely except in a few instances. The rainfall was somewhat deficient during the first part of July, but at the latter end of that month and during the greater part of August it was heavy and well distributed. The September fall was, however, very deficient and the monsoon came to an untimely end in that month. No rain fell in October, a very poor kharif harvest was reaped, and rabi sowings began in most

depressing circumstances. Prospects were, however, much brightened by general and welcome rain at the end of November. Little fell in December, but the northern districts received welcome showers in January. February brought good rain to the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions, but all the districts of Berar were rainless during the whole of the cold-weather months. In many districts the rainfall of March was above the average, but the two succeeding months were unusually dry, and the year ending on the 31st May 1908 closed with an average rainfall of 38·55 inches in the Central Provinces, or 10 inches short of the normal, while the Berar fall was 27·73 inches against an average of 30·09.

Character of the season

94. Up to the end of August the season differed little from a normal one, and agriculture was prosperous. The kharif area increased by ·57 per cent in the Central Provinces and by about one per cent in Berar. With the premature withdrawal of the monsoon in September, the position was entirely changed, and when October passed without rain, a considerable degree of scarcity became certain, with apprehensions of famine in the northern districts. Matters, however, proved to be less serious than had been feared, and the losses of the kharif crop were largely compensated for by a very fair rabi outturn, albeit on a much restricted area. Owing to unfavourable conditions at sowing time, the rabi area decreased by 2,227,000 acres or as much as 28 per cent, the shrinkage being especially apparent in Chhattisgarh where the lack of moisture rendered it impossible to sow the usual after-crop of linseed and pulses in the rice-fields. Notwithstanding the general decrease in area the outturns were fair and better than had been expected, especially in the districts where distress was most feared. In Damoh and Jubbulpore, for instance, wheat gave a 90 to 95 per cent outturn, and gram did almost as well. The rabi crop which suffered most was linseed. The outturns of some of the principal crops are described in the following paragraphs:—

Yield of the autumn (kharif) crops.

Rice.—For rice the rainfall was unseasonable and ill-distributed and the rice harvest, when compared with the outturn of the previous year, was very disappointing. Only in Raipur and Chanda was the yield of transplanted rice about normal. For the province as a whole the outturn of broadcast and transplanted rice amounted to 56 and 57 per cent, respectively, as compared with 124 and 103 in the preceding year.

Juar.—Juar suffered much from excessive and continuous rain throughout the provinces. The outturn did not in any of the districts exceed 90 per cent of a normal crop; and the percentage of the total outturn in the Central Provinces was only 62. Only half the normal crop was reaped in Berar.

Cotton.—The sowing season was late but otherwise favourable to cotton. In July and August the rainfall was, however, not only heavy but was so continuous as to afford little or no opportunity for weeding. Subsequently the cotton plants suffered from want of moisture and abnormal heat and their growth was consequently stunted. In the important cotton-growing tracts, the estimated outturn of cotton ranged from 33 to 72 per cent of a normal crop as compared with 55 to 94 per cent in the preceding year.

Tur.—The outturn of tur was fair, but only the district of Balaghat reaped a normal crop. The average outturn for the provinces was 62 per cent of the normal.

Til.—The conditions were comparatively favourable for til in the Nagpur country and in the districts of Narsinghpur and Yeotmal. Only Nagpur returned a normal crop and Wardha very little below normal. In most districts where this oilseed is extensively sown the adverse climatic conditions reduced the outturns to between 82 (in Yeotmal) and 27 (in Damoh). The yield for the Central Provinces and Berar was little more than half the average.

Kodon and kutki.—The year was extraordinarily bad for kodon and kutki. The outturn was little more than a third of an average crop.

Wheat.—Wheat was sown under most unfavourable conditions, but the cold-weather showers, though scanty, were most opportune and greatly benefited the crop. The soil was, however, dry, the heat above normal and the usual dews did not fall. Forest in the northern districts and hail in Nimar caused some

WEATHER AND CROPS

loss. A normal harvest was, thus early, rendered impossible. Excepting Narsinghpur, the outturn in all the districts of the Central Provinces and Berar was below that of the year 1906-07, and the total estimated yield stood at 68 per cent of a normal crop as against 92 in the year preceding.

Gram.—Gram suffered more than wheat from lack of rain and from frost and hail and only Raipur reported a normal crop.

Yield of the spring (rabi) crops.

Linseed.—Frost, hail and absence of winter rain damaged the linseed crop in most districts. The yield in Amraoti, Yeotmal, Nagpur, Bhandara and Buldana was nominal, and the crop was a total failure in Akola. Elsewhere the outturn ranged from 30 per cent in Chanda to 80 in Jubbulpore. The total produce was about half that of the previous year.

HORTICULTURE

3—HORTICULTURE

[Report on the management of the Provincial and District Gardens of the Central Provinces for the year 1907-08.]

Provincial Gardens.

95. Though the rainfall of the year was below the average, the season was on the whole favourable for horticulture. At the Maharajbagh in Nagpur the sudden cessation of the rains at the end of September offered a very good opportunity for cultivating an early winter crop of vegetables, which was distinctly better than usual. The fruit crop was also good, more especially the mango crop, while the vines obtained from Scotland two years ago bore well, though the grapes were much smaller than those produced in cooler climes. Irrigation by iron pipes was extended and new lawns and roads were made. The number of plants sold rose from 8,770 to 10,600, and the number issued gratis from 475 to 1,200. As in the previous year the menagerie and aviary fared very badly. Receipts of the garden amounted to Rs. 6,295 and expenditure to Rs. 19,647. At Telinkheri there were good crops of vegetables and fruit, and in consequence the receipts rose from Rs. 1,062 to Rs. 1,343. At Pachmarhi, despite the fact that the rainfall was only 54 inches against an average fall of 80 inches, there were fair crops of fruit and vegetables and a good show of flowers; while a good supply of vegetables was obtained during the dry weather from the new garden at Pagara.

District Gardens.

96. In the district gardens both fruit and vegetables were good crops with the result that receipts in these gardens rose from Rs. 6,261 to Rs. 7,402. The increase in expenditure from Rs. 13,983 to Rs. 18,815 was due to three causes: the payment of grain compensation to servants on account of high prices, dearness of fodder and increased difficulty in obtaining an adequate supply of water. Though more trees were sold or given away, the stock of trees increased. The district gardens are now visited from time to time by the superior staff of the Agricultural Department. At present the main obstacle to success is the lack of efficient gardeners.

Court of Wards Gardens.

97. Gardens were maintained by the Court of Wards Estates in Wardha, Chanda and Hoshangabad. There was a surplus of receipts over expenditure in the case of the Ahiri Garden in Chanda.

FORESTS

4—FORESTS

[Reports from the Conservators of Forests of the Northern, Southern and Berar Circles, on the Forest Administration in the Central Provinces, for the year 1907-08, and Resolution thereon.]

Forest areas.

98. The total area of the State Forests stands at 22,002 square miles, as at the end of last year. Minor changes occurred in classification, the most important being an addition of 362 square miles to the area of permanent reserves, chiefly in South Chanda, and the constitution of a new class termed "Village forests" comprising 34 square miles formed from the reserves hitherto set apart as pasture grounds in Berar. These village forests have been constituted with the object of facilitating their enjoyment by the local population free from control by the Forest Department, and details of management by agency of the Revenue Officers are under consideration. Settlement operations were completed in respect of 4 square miles of forest in the Northern and Southern

Circles, and further areas aggregating 12 square miles in those Circles and 656 square miles in the Melghat of Berar are undergoing settlement.

Demarcation and Survey.

99. Only 52 miles of boundaries requiring artificial marks remain undemarcated, mostly in South Chanda. New demarcation to the extent of 65 square miles necessitated by changes due mainly to afforestment and disforestment of small areas, was carried out so far as required, but the expenditure amounting to Rs. 25,352 on demarcation was laid out mainly on maintenance of existing boundary lines and repair of boundary pillars. In Berar 57 square miles of forest were mapped by the Survey of India on the two-inch scale, and 286 miles of boundary survey on the four-inch scale, at a cost to the Forest Department of only Rs. 485.

Working-plans.

100. A new working-plan for 193 square miles of sal forest in Balaghat was sanctioned during the year, and new plans for the forests of the Saugor Division and for the Motinala sal forests of Mandla were completed. In Bhandara the preparation of a new working-plan for the forests of the whole Division has been in progress and is expected to be completed shortly. The revision of existing plans in many Divisions has yet to be effected, and new plans are still required for forests aggregating 4,676 square miles or about 27 per cent of the whole area now requiring definite plans of management. With the object of furthering this work several preliminary working-plan reports were under preparation during the year. Although the work of preparing plans has advanced but slowly, yet the progress made has been continuous and commensurate with the strength of the existing staff. The provisions of sanctioned working-plans were adhered to as far as possible, but the need of providing employment in tracts affected by agricultural scarcity made some variations necessary. In Balaghat the extension of railway communication has rendered possible some re-introduction of the previously abandoned provisions of sanctioned plans.

Roads, buildings, tanks and wells.

101. Great activity, intensified by the need of providing relief works during a season of scarcity, attended the construction of roads, buildings, tanks and wells. The outlay of 1907-08 on such works amounted to Rs. 3,41,041, as compared with Rs. 1,47,382 expended in 1906-07. New roads were made to the extent of 365 miles at a cost of Rs. 83,213, and repairs of 3,653 miles of roads were effected at a cost of Rs. 27,737. On new buildings a sum of Rs. 91,731 was spent, the principal works consisting of a part of the Forest School-buildings at Balaghat costing Rs. 8,434, and 24 rest-houses and 162 buildings for the accommodation of Forest subordinates. Much progress was also achieved in the construction of tanks and wells. Twenty-eight new tanks and 76 wells were completed and 13 other tanks and 20 wells were under construction. The outlay on tanks and wells, including the cost of repairs, was Rs. 1,15,529, as compared with Rs. 31,076 expended in 1906-07. These road and tank works not only provided remunerative employment to numerous forest villagers and others during the season of distress caused by the failure of crops, but are of immense value in developing the utilization of the forests.

Forest offences.

102. Although in all tracts seriously affected by scarcity very liberal concessions were made by permitting the free removal of grass, dry fuel and minor produce, and by opening forests to free grazing, the effects of the scarcity were seen in a rise in the number of forest offences, which amounted to 6,828 or 814 above the average of the previous three years. Illicit grazing was especially common, and in many cases the people abused the dry fuel concessions by felling live growth. Offences by burning, however, were fewer than usual. The number of offences compounded rose from 5,155 to 6,171; only the more serious offences are taken before the courts, and the number there decided was 351 or only 3 in excess of the previous year's figure.

Protection from fire.

103. Owing to unduly early cessation of the rains in 1907, and to the forests being overrun during the dry season by large numbers of people privileged to collect forest produce free for their own use after failure of their crops, the local conditions were unfavourable for protection of the forests against fire. The number of cases of fire rose from 318 in 1906-07 to 423 in 1907-08, and in regard

to area the percentage of successful protection fell from 98 to 92½. At the same time the cost of protection increased from Rs. 8-3-3 to Rs. 9-5-1 per square mile owing partly to substitution of more thorough measures of protection for the incomplete methods hitherto in vogue in the tracts formerly classed as partially protected, but mainly to the necessity for employing the fire-watchers for a longer period than usual owing to early cessation of the rains, and also in consequence of a general increase in the rates of labour-wages. The total cost of fire-conservancy was Rs. 1,01,371, as compared with Rs. 87,258 in 1906-07. The area under fire-protection rose from 10,660 to 10,815 square miles and now comprises 62 per cent of the total area of the permanent forest reserves.

Exploitation, sylviculture and management.

104. The utilization of the forests was greatly affected by the agricultural depression caused by the drought of 1907. Large quantities of timber, grass, fuel and minor produce, valued at Rs. 3,18,270, were granted free to the people, and revenue was remitted to the extent of Rs. 1,32,306. Of the income of the year, 32 per cent was derived from timber and fuel, 48 per cent from grass and grazing, 17 per cent from other minor produce, and 3 per cent from miscellaneous petty sources. The Allapilli saw-mills in Chanda were closed owing to the smallness of the profits obtained. Injuries to forest growth from natural causes such as frost, drought, wind and insects were fortunately inconspicuous, and much attention was paid to the removal of climbers and other parasitic growth. Drought caused some retardation of natural reproduction of teak by seed and coppice, but there is a general spread of teak and *anjan* (*Hardwickia binata*) in localities immune from excessive grazing. Good progress was made in the improvement of growing stock by means of thinnings, cleanings, freeing valuable species from suppression, cutting back diseased and misshapen stems, climber-cutting and so forth, and advantage was taken of an unusually abundant supply of labour to prosecute this important work more thoroughly. A matter which is receiving much attention in the Southern Circle is the propagation of lac, but owing to adverse climatic conditions the results achieved during the year were very disappointing, while there was a great fall in the market-price of the produce. The total outturn of timber was a little below that of the previous year, but the quantities of minor produce and fodder removed increased very largely owing to the free grant of these commodities in the scarcity tracts. The recently established Forest School at Balaghat is developing satisfactorily; there is no lack of candidates and the school will probably have to be enlarged.

Financial results.

105. The actual revenue amounted to Rs. 21,86,231, or nearly 11 per cent less than in 1906-07. Expenditure was Rs. 16,76,691, which is 25 per cent above the figure of 1906-07; of the increase, 80 per cent was incurred on conservancy and works. The abnormal expenditure incurred with the primary object of giving employment was Rs. 1,19,916. The net profit was a little over 5 lakhs, or nearly 6 lakhs below that of the previous year. Almost the whole of the decrease is accounted for by the free concessions granted and works undertaken for the relief of distress.

MINES AND QUARRIES

5—MINES AND QUARRIES

[Report on the working of the Indian Mines Act in the Central Provinces for the calendar year 1907.]

Mines under the Indian Mines Act.

106. The number of coal mines worked during the year was 5 as against 4 in the previous year. Two new coal mines were opened at Butaria and Barkuhi in the Chhindwara district, but in the latter, operations were confined to earth-cutting. There was a considerable increase in the output of coal during the year, the total quantity extracted being 134,098 tons, valued at Rs. 6,22,502 as compared with an output of 92,848 tons, valued at Rs. 3,94,444 in the previous year. The mines afforded employment to 1,819 labourers. The Government colliery at Ballarpur in the Chanda district worked without interruption during the year, the output being 23,127 tons, the gross earnings derived from the sale of which amounted to Rs. 98,330, giving a net income of Rs. 30,220, or Rs. 4½ per cent on the capital expenditure from the commencement of operations. Good progress was made in equipping the colliery with buildings and gear.

Manganese mining.

107. The number of manganese quarries coming within the meaning of Section 3 (*d*) of the Act increased from 29 to 34. In addition to these,

11 quarries may be mentioned, although being not more than 20 feet in depth they do not come within the definition of mines. Two mines in the Nagpur district were closed down and the total number open at the end of the year, including the 11 quarries mentioned above was 43. The output of manganese ore amounted to 497,551 tons. The wholesale price of the ore at the pit's mouth averaged Rs. 7-4-7 per ton, the total value being Rs. 36,26,518. Prices rose sharply during the first portion of the year and then fell abnormally, and there does not appear to be any immediate tendency for them to rise. This fall, coupled with the heavy expenses of carting in the case of mines situated at a distance from the railway line, greatly hampered the industry, and it is probable that many of the smaller capitalists will retire from the field, and that in the near future the industry will be left mainly in the hands of the larger capitalists who work more efficiently and systematically. The number of labourers employed by the manganese mines was 9,118.

Miscellaneous.

108. The number of lime-stone quarries was the same as in the previous year, and the number of labourers employed in them was 3,064. Two new mines were opened, one for pottery clay at Tikaria and the other for steatite at Behraghat. The copper mines at Dharwara and Bhoola remained closed. The iron-stone quarry at Jaoli and the fuller's earth mine at Tikaria continued to be worked throughout the year. Lime-stone and fuller's earth weighing 55,967 tons were taken from the quarries at Murwara, the estimated value of which was Rs. 57,519 as against an output of 47,948 tons valued at Rs. 39,263 in the previous year. There were 17 serious accidents during the year, 8 of which proved fatal; one non-fatal accident occurred at the Government colliery at Ballarpur. Cholera broke out at the Gumgaon mine in the Nagpur district, but the general health of the employees was good and the sanitary condition of the mines and quarries satisfactory. There were no prosecutions under the Act.

Commercial activity.

109. No less than 184 prospecting licenses and 15 mining leases were granted during the year, as against 46 and 5, respectively, in the previous year. The development of the mining industry steadily progresses, and there is a considerable advance among the natives of the country in the direction of mineral enterprise. This rapidly developing industry has contributed largely to the great rise in the general standard of wages which has been so marked a feature of recent years. During 1907 labour continued to be scarce in the Nagpur district, and labourers were imported from Cutch, Chhattisgarh and elsewhere. In the Jubbulpore district consequent on the partial failure of the crops labour was more plentiful, and labourers flocked to the lime-stone quarries at Murwara.

6—MANUFACTURES

MANUFACTURES

[Resolution on the working of the Factories Act in the Central Provinces and Berar, for the year 1907; also Table XXX-2—5 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1907-08.]

Number of factories.

110. A rise in the number of factories from 318 to 327 is due mainly to changes in classification. In the Nagpur and Berar Divisions, factories of gins and presses situated within the same compound were registered as separate factories, and in the Nerbudda Division certain factories ceased to be classed as such for failure to work the prescribed number of days. The poorness of the cotton crop kept some factories closed in the Nerbudda Division, but on the whole the activity of cotton-pressing and ginning factories seems to have been less affected by the partial failure of the 1907 monsoon than might have been expected.

Employees.

111. There has been a decrease in the total number of operatives employed, which is reported to be due to short working of many of the ginning factories. The decrease is equally distributed among male and female operatives, but the number of children has increased by 173. Several cases of the illegal employment of children were detected in Berar, but only two cases were prosecuted.

Health.

112. The health of the operatives was good everywhere, and with a few exceptions the general sanitary conditions under which they worked were satisfactory. The only matter in which the conditions of factory labour seem at all

unfavourable to health is that of ventilation, and steady progress has been made in removing defects in this respect. The enforcement of regulations relating to women and children in seasonal factories in the interior continues to be the main difficulty in the administration of the factory law. The workers themselves will not give evidence, and when the inspecting officer's back is turned there is no check on the infringement of the law. The number of accidents in the Central Provinces increased from 94 to 103, of which one proved fatal. In Berar there was a decrease of 12 and there were two fatal accidents. The Gun Carriage Factory at Jubbulpore is responsible for 22 serious and 27 minor accidents. The machinery in this factory, which employed a large number of operatives, is well-guarded, and the accidents were generally due to the carelessness of the men employed.

Wages.

113. The general rate of wages of unskilled labour remained much the same as in the previous year, but there was a slight tendency to fall in the Jubbulpore and Nimar districts, where there was some distress at the end of the year on account of crop failure. The rise in the wages of skilled labour, which has been such a marked feature of the economic progress of the Province during the last few years, continues. A sudden decrease in the wages of fitters and other fluctuations in the Nagpur district are ascribed to changes in the staff. The difficulty of obtaining trained hands, and the consequent necessity of employing raw recruits, is the probable cause of the reduction.

Supervision.

114. The appointment of two Inspectors of Boilers and Factories has resulted in a marked improvement in the matter of inspections. Twelve factories are shown as uninspected, but of these 11 were closed throughout the year.

TRADE

7—TRADE

[Report on the rail-borne traffic of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st March 1908; also Accounts of the trade carried by rail and river in India for the year 1907-08.]

Character of the harvests.

115. The trade of the provinces depends almost entirely on the success of its agriculture, and the trade-returns of 1907-08 were mainly influenced by the harvests of 1907. The produce of the spring harvests was normal, and the first half of the year was one of general prosperity, exports of food-grains, as usual, largely exceeding imports. Later in the year there was a very serious failure of the monsoon, and a poor autumn harvest was reaped, with the result that though the provinces spared a considerable quantity of food-grains to the still more seriously afflicted tracts of the United Provinces, their own import demand rose very largely. The net result was that though, over the whole year, the exports of food-grains were more than three times as great as the imports, they rose by only 20 per cent, while imports rose by no less than 119 per cent, and the close of the year found the provinces receiving more than they sent away.

Prices.

116. Owing to the failure of the monsoon, and still more to the prevalence of famine conditions in the United Provinces, the prices of all food-grains rose very largely, and stood at famine rates from October onwards. The average level of prices for the whole year, as compared with that of 1906-07, was 31 per cent higher in the case of juar, 22 per cent in the case of wheat, and 13 per cent in the case of gram and rice, but the percentages of increase were still greater towards the close of the year. The prices of cotton and oil-seeds were also affected. That of til was 29 per cent, and that of linseed 17 per cent, higher than in the previous year, but the price of cotton, which is affected less by local circumstances than by the condition of foreign markets, was only 2 per cent higher on the average.

Total traffic of the year.

117. The total volume of trade rose by $1\frac{1}{3}$ million maunds, and the total value by $10\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. The value of imports rose by $105\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, but that of exports was less by 95 lakhs.

Imports.

118. The most noteworthy feature in the import returns is the very large increase of 119 per cent in grain and pulse, which was caused by the failure of the autumn harvest. The same cause accounts for large increases in the quantities of fodder (34 per cent) and oilseeds (157 per cent) which were

imported. There were small decreases in commodities like manufactured cotton-goods, opium, liquors, metals, sugar and tea, which perhaps indicate that the high prices and scarcity of the later months more than counterbalanced the prosperity of the earlier part of the year, in affecting the power of the people to purchase luxuries. There were, however, increases of 8 per cent in the imports of salt, and 4 per cent in those of oils (largely kerosine). Railway extension in the south of the provinces accounts for an increase of 29 per cent in the imports of railway plant and rolling stock. The total bulk of imports was over 18 million maunds, or more than 7 per cent higher than in the previous year.

Exports.

119. Exports of food-grains rose by 20 per cent, and the rise was large in the case of rice in the husk (84 per cent) and wheat (80 per cent). These increases were rendered possible by the exceptionally fine harvest which had been reaped in the rice-districts shortly before the trade-year began, and by a good wheat harvest at the beginning of the year. The juar harvest, on the other hand, had been comparatively poor in the districts where the crop is of most importance, and the exports of this grain consequently declined by 50 per cent. Apart from food-grains, the most important commodities exported from the provinces are raw and manufactured cotton, dyes and tans, fodder, hides and skins, oil-seeds and timber. Exports of raw cotton declined by 20 per cent. The poorness of the 1907 crop is alone sufficient to account for the decrease, but the area under this crop has also slightly declined of late from the abnormally high figures which it attained three and four years ago. There was a slight rise (2 per cent) in exports of oil-seeds, a heavy linseed crop in the spring of 1907 being sufficient to counterbalance a poor crop of cotton, the seed of which is largely exported, in the autumn. Exports of fodder declined by 75 per cent, as after the failure of the monsoon the province needed the whole of its own supplies, and in 1908 cattle suffered considerably, but up to the end of March in that year there was no great mortality, as is shown by a decline of 20 per cent in the export of hides and skins. A bumper crop of myrabolams in the plateau districts accounts for an increase of 48 per cent in the exports of dyes and tans. The manganese industry, which has developed remarkably in recent years, continued to flourish, and exports of metals consequently rose in bulk by 11 per cent. The balance of trade in favour of the province, as shown by excess of exports over imports, fell from $6\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees, and the fall may be attributed to the depressed agricultural conditions which marked the last six months of the year.

8—PUBLIC WORKS

PUBLIC WORKS

[Finance Accounts of the Buildings and Roads Branch of the Public Works Department, Central Provinces, for the year 1907-08; also Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India for 1907-08.]

IMPERIAL WORKS

Imperial works.

120. No Imperial Works of great importance were taken in hand during the year. A pro-cathedral clergy-house at Nagpur was completed at a cost of Rs. 25,171, of which an allotment of Rs. 8,200 was made from Imperial funds, and a contribution of Rs. 11,000 was received from the Bishop. The construction of a new post office and post-master's quarters at Baihar was taken in hand.

PROVINCIAL WORKS

121. The total expenditure on Provincial Works of all kinds amounted to Rs. 59,20,995, of which Rs. 29,78,102 were spent on original works and the remainder devoted to repairs and establishment.

The following were the principal works carried out during the year :—

Forest buildings.

122. Office buildings for the Conservator of Forests at Amraoti, and for the Divisional Forest Officers of Yeotmal and Nagpur were completed with a total outlay of Rs. 27,246, Rs. 13,002 and Rs. 7,230, respectively, and that at Chikalda was in progress. A bungalow for the Conservator of Forests at Nagpur was almost completed at a cost of about Rs. 20,000.

Land revenue buildings.

123. The Tahsili buildings at Warora and Wardha were completed during the year, and Rs. 5,278 and Rs. 22,662, respectively, were spent on them. The construction of the Tahsili at Brahmapuri was commenced, but was stopped after an expenditure of Rs. 3,877 had been incurred, as money was required for scarcity works. The Tahsili Officials' quarters at Sakoli, Baihar and Chikalda were completed, the total expenditure to end of the year being Rs. 11,625, Rs. 2,522 and Rs. 11,059, respectively. On the minor officials' quarters at Garhchiroli an expenditure of Rs. 3,151 was incurred, thus bringing the total expenditure to Rs. 6,321. The improvements to the Tahsili at Pachmarhi were practically completed.

Excise buildings.

124. Several improvements to the distilleries at Nagpur, Umrer, Ramtek, Wardha, Arvi and Hinganghat were carried out during the year at a total expenditure of Rs. 10,874. Twenty-three bonded warehouses were either completed or in progress during the year, and materials were collected for others. At Nagpur a bungalow for the Commissioner of Excise was completed at a total cost of Rs. 27,000.

Residences for Local Governments and Secretariat offices.

125. Very good progress has been made with the new Secretariat building, which was commenced in 1904. Much of the work has been done departmentally. The work on the eastern face is nearly completed, and a good deal of the ordinary and ornamental stone work of the verandahs and porches on the other sides has also been done. The expenditure incurred during the year was Rs. 1,98,807. The total expenditure to the end of 1907-08 amounted to Rs. 4,41,548 against an estimate of Rs. 8,74,444.

Miscellaneous.

126. At Nagpur, bungalows for the Chief Secretary and the Assistant Secretary were completed at an outlay of Rs. 26,000 and Rs. 18,000, respectively, while special repairs were carried out to the bungalows occupied by the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Principal of the Agriculture College and the Chief Superintendent of the Comptroller's office.

Agriculture.

127. The construction of Experimental Farm buildings, a Dutch barn and a rest-house near Akola was in progress, the expenditure being Rs. 18,783. An Experimental Farm at Lendra (Nagpur) was completed at a cost of Rs. 18,000, while quarters for an Overseer and additions to the office of the Superintendent, Maharajbagh, were made at a cost of Rs. 2,130 and Rs. 800, respectively. Several other improvements were also carried out in the Maharajbagh, and more than Rs. 2,500 were expended thereon. The additional farm buildings at the Labhandih Experimental Farm (Raipur) were completed at a cost of Rs. 12,550, and a rest-house was also constructed. Additions were similarly made to the farm buildings at Powarkhera near Hoshangabad at a cost of Rs. 12,766, including the partial construction of a rest-house.

Educational.

128. A sum of Rs. 5,500 was spent in constructing a laboratory in the Victoria Technical Institute at Nagpur, and in completing its fittings and the additions and improvements to the Science rooms at the Jubbulpore College were completed. A boarding-house at Malkapur, a normal school for females at Amraoti, and primary schools for girls at Karanja, Khamgaon and Malkapur were completed, and work on a number of other educational buildings was in progress.

High Courts and District Courts.

129. A new circuit-house was commenced at Mandla. The work on the Commissioner's court at Nagpur, which was begun in December 1906, showed good progress, the outlay being Rs. 24,582. At Amraoti the new office for the Commissioner, and the conversion of the Commissioner's old office into Law Courts were completed, the outlay on the latter being Rs. 39,445. Civil courts at Khamgaon and courts for Munsiffs at Warora, Brahmapuri and Dharwa were completed. A good deal of work was also done in connection with judicial buildings at Daryapur, Akola, Nagpur and Wardha. The new Civil courts at Nagpur, Hoshangabad and Bilaspur are fast approaching completion. The entire separation of the judicial and executive establishments, and the steady expansion of civil litigation, necessitate a very large building programme for the Judicial Department, but this programme cannot be finally settled till the scheme of sessions and civil divisions has been settled.

130. The construction of quarters for press clerks, and new solitary cells in the Central Jail, Nagpur, is practically finished. Improvements to the Central Jail at Amraoti were completed at an outlay of Rs. 13,447. The re-roofing of some of the barracks in the Central Jail at Raipur and certain minor improvements to District Jails at Wardha, Buldana, Chanda and Sironcha, &c., were also carried out. **Jails.**

131. The construction programme for the Police Department is a very heavy one, and will continue to be so far some years owing to the reorganization schemes which are being adopted in consequence of the reforms suggested by the Police Commission. The new Kotwali in Nagpur City, a fine building which was completed early in the year at a total cost of Rs. 35,132 against an estimate of Rs. 41,220, was handed over to the Police Department for occupation, the saving on the estimate being mainly due to the whole of the ornamental work having been done by Public Works Departmental agency. At Amraoti, lines for the Reserve Police, residential quarters for the head-quarters Inspector, and for the European Sergeant were completed at a cost of Rs. 31,611, Rs. 8,773 and Rs. 3,316, respectively. The lines for the Reserve Police at Akola, which were commenced in 1906-07, are still in progress, the expenditure during the year being Rs. 14,862. At Basim the conversion of the Taluq Police Station-house into quarters for the Police, and of the Town Police Station-house into quarters for the Circle Inspector, was completed, and improvements were also made in the Police lines at that place, and at Wardha. Quarters for the Police at Brahmapuri and for the District Superintendents of Police at Balaghat and Damoh were completed at a cost of Rs. 9,232, Rs. 12,523 and Rs. 16,231, respectively. Besides these buildings six new station-houses with lines or quarters were built during the year. The work on the Police lines at Ahiri was begun and the major portion done at a cost of Rs. 3,791. Considerable difficulty was experienced in getting this work done owing to scarcity of skilled and unskilled labour in the jungle tract in which Ahiri is situated. The station-houses and quarters taken in hand in the previous year in the Chhattisgarh districts, in order to give effect to the new station-house system, were completed at a total cost of Rs. 87,704. Quarters at Jubbulpore were completed at a total cost of Rs. 41,549, and over Rs. 25,000 were spent on completing quarters for constables at Rehli, Banda, Saugor and Khandwa. A sum of Rs. 11,862 was also spent in providing quarters for European Police Sergeants at Jubbulpore, Saugor and Raipur. The Inspector's bungalow at Seoni, which was damaged by fire, was restored and that at Hoshangabad was considerably improved. A Police Hospital was built at Mandla. At Nagpur a bungalow for the Inspector-General of Police was completed at a total cost of Rs. 23,000, and special repairs were carried out to the bungalows occupied by the District Superintendent of Police and the Personal Assistant to the Inspector-General of Police. **Police.**

132. Additional buildings to provide extra accommodation needed in the Lunatic Asylum, Nagpur, were completed at a total cost of Rs. 29,235, further extensions to the Asylum are in hand. The construction of a new Veterinary Dispensary at Nagpur was undertaken and practically completed at an expenditure of Rs. 12,710 against the sanctioned amount of Rs. 17,468. The construction of mortuaries at Brahmapuri, Garhchiroli, Dhaba and Ahiri was begun and almost finished. A bungalow for the Civil Surgeon, Wardha, which was begun in 1906-07, was completed at a cost of Rs. 10,570. Additions to the dispensary at Drug costing about Rs. 12,000 were completed; six new mortuaries were built and four more were in progress. **Hospitals, Dispensaries and Asylums.**

133. The Executive Engineer's office at Jubbulpore was completed at a cost of Rs. 17,978 and quarters were provided for the Accountant. Additions to the Club buildings at Pachmarhi, costing about Rs. 11,000, were practically completed. At Nagpur the bungalow for the Chief Engineer, which was commenced in 1906-07, was completed at an outlay of Rs. 28,000 and the quarters for the Executive Engineers, Chanda and Mul Divisions, and the Sub-Divisional Officer, Moorumgaon, were begun. Five blocks of clerks' quarters were completed at Nagpur at an aggregate cost of Rs. 31,323. Additions and alterations to the office and the tent godown of the Superintending Engineer, First Circle, and extensions to the Public Works Department Workshops **Public Works buildings.**

were made at a cost of Rs. 6,300 and Rs. 4,584, and new offices for the Sub-Divisional Officers of Wardha and the Roads Sub-Division, Nagpur, were constructed. Work on the quarters for the Public Works Department staff at Chanda was continued, and the remaining clerks' quarters completed at a total cost of Rs. 5,804, the outlay during the year being Rs. 2,236.

Communications.

134. Although for the greater part of the year labour was scarce and expensive, very good progress was made in the establishment and improvement of communications, the total outlay on these rising from Rs. 19,77,000 to Rs. 26,78,000, of which Rs. 12¾ lakhs were spent on original works and the balance on repairs. Upwards of Rs. 80,000 were spent in constructing works in the new Drug district, and among other districts which received special attention, were Nagpur, Balaghat and Chanda. The erection of a girder bridge of 57½ feet span, in the 12th mile of the Great Eastern road, which was started in 1906-07, has been completed, and the bridge opened for traffic.

The whole of the earthwork and culverts on the Takli railway feeder road were practically finished, and metal collection was in hand. An experiment with a view to dust-prevention was carried out on a portion of the railway feeder road, in the Nagpur Civil Station, by covering the road surface with distilled coal tar. The result is eminently satisfactory, and it is proposed to extend the tar up to the Exhibition grounds, where its behaviour, under the heavy traffic expected during the Exhibition, will be carefully observed. Good progress was made on raising the Lamtha-Baihar road in class. A sum of Rs. 19,585 was spent, and the work was nearly completed, only a few bridges and culverts remaining to be done. Work was steadily continued on the construction of Baihar-Topla road, the banking and metalling being practically completed.

In Chanda the chief roads to which attention was paid were those from Chanda to Allapalli, Allapalli to Sironcha, Allapalli to Muramgaon, and Muramgaon to Dhamtari in the Raipur district. Excellent progress was made on the Burhanpur-Dhertalai and Badnur-Ellichpur roads, the outlay on each during the year being nearly a lakh. Many roads were provided with bridges and culverts, and work on the re-alignment of the Piparia-Pachmarhi road was continued. An expenditure of Rs. 59,000 was incurred on roadside tree-planting and the maintenance of nurseries.

Scarcity works.

135. Some special mention must be made of the expansion of the operations of the department in consequence of the failure of the autumn crops, although this expansion was not given full effect till after the close of 1907. The object of this measure was to prevent distress and avoid the demoralization and waste that are liable to be caused by the opening of regular famine works, and the ordinary construction programme of the year was accordingly pushed on vigorously, and expanded on a large scale to meet the exigencies of the situation. New "Scarcity" works of undoubted utility, selected from the latest District Road schemes, were taken up for execution wherever employment was needed. Early in November such works were organized in the Jubbulpore, Damoh and Nimar districts, and by the middle of January they were in rapid progress in the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions. It was not till the beginning of March that the need for employment was felt in the Chhattisgarh Division and the close of the financial year was marked by the extension of "Scarcity" works throughout all districts in these three divisions. The total outlay on these works exceeded seven lakhs, of which upwards of six lakhs were devoted to the construction of new roads and the improvement of existing roads, funds for which would sooner or later have been provided in the ordinary course, and nearly a lakh to the "reserve" collection of metal on first class roads in order to relieve the burden of future maintenance. These works were of the greatest value in providing ready employment for people in need of it.

District Funds.

136. The work of raising the Ambajheri-Hingna and Anjani-Sonegaon roads to class I was taken in hand, and Rs. 16,615 were spent on improvements to the Daryapur-Anjangaon and Ellichpur-Anjangaon roads. The construction of schools at various places in the East Berar Division was continued during the year at a cost of Rs. 14,032, and progress was made with the construction of a dharamsala at Takli in the East Berar Division. In the West

Berar Division there was an outlay of Rs. 11,271 on school buildings, wells, chaodis, District Board offices, causeways, &c., while Rs. 3,860 were spent on collection of stone metal for the Khamgaon-Nandura road, and on improving the road from Akola to Ridhora. The construction of the Powni-Lakhandur road had to be stopped for want of funds, and the road was handed over to the District Council, Bhandara, in an incomplete state. A sum of Rs. 1,410 was spent on constructing the Lanji-Bijagarh road in the Balaghat district. Improvements to the Ramnagur-Ghugri road in Mandla were well advanced and the road from Palari Railway Station to Khaira-Maira village in Seoni was completed. Quarters for the Veterinary Hospital Assistant at Chanda were completed at a cost of Rs. 1,631.

Contributions.

137. The construction of the Victoria Technical Institute at Amraoti was continued, with an expenditure of Rs. 11,899, making Rs. 41,259 spent up to date. The catchment area of the Kalapani tank near Amraoti was further extended at a cost of Rs. 6,733, and the construction of drains in the Akola town was carried out during the year, at a cost of Rs. 8,826. Improvements to the Jubbulpore Water-works estimated to cost nearly $3\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs were begun and rapidly proceeded with, the actual expenditure during the year being nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. Certain improvements to the Victoria Hospital at Jubbulpore were carried out and a small section of the Jubbulpore drainage scheme was also constructed. The water-supply and fencing of the Pagara garden were effected and a commencement was made with the construction of a Town Hall at Badnur.

Protective irrigation works.

138. Surveys in connection with the Famine Programmes for the Provinces were in progress, the total expenditure incurred during the year being Rs. 49,889.

9—IRRIGATION

IRRIGATION

[Season and Crop Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for 1907-08, and the Administration Report of the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department for 1907-08.]

Area under irrigation.

139. Irrigation in these Provinces consists mainly in the watering of rice from tanks, and the area irrigated in any year depends more upon the distribution than upon the amount of the rainfall. The monsoon of 1907 brought sufficient rain to fill the tanks, and its early withdrawal gave a great stimulus to irrigation which extended over 918,000 acres, the largest irrigated area on record, but even this figure represents less than 4 per cent of the net area bearing crops.

State irrigation works.

140. All the State tanks filled well, and the area irrigated rose from 4,893 to 37,914 acres, exclusive of the area protected by field-embankments and of 7,088 acres irrigated from tanks constructed under the grant-in-aid system. This large extension of irrigation was accompanied by a fall in the average rate paid per acre. State irrigation in these Provinces is still in its infancy, and with the object of encouraging cultivators to learn its benefits it is the accepted policy of the Administration to give free water when a work is first opened, and to charge very low rates until the value of the protection afforded is fully appreciated. The method of charging by crop-rates has so far been found to be acceptable to the people, but the question of the most suitable system of charging for water is still under consideration.

Major works.

141. The amount spent on major protective irrigation works, of which 17 were under construction during the year, rose from $10\frac{1}{3}$ to over 12 lakhs. The important Tendula-Mahanadi canal scheme was completed and submitted in its final stage for the sanction of the Government of India; the project, when completed, will protect the districts of Raipur and Drug, which have suffered severely from famine in the past. Next in importance is the Wainganga canal project in the Bhandara and Balaghat districts, a preliminary report for which was submitted to the Government of India, and orders have now been received for the preparation of a detailed estimate. Work on the Ramtek tank progressed satisfactorily in spite of an outbreak of cholera and the desertion of imported coolies. The head-works and right bank system of distributaries of the Khairbanda and Chandpur tanks were practically completed and work on the left bank system commenced. In the case of the former tank the work was specially

commenced with a view to providing work in case of distress in consequence of crop failure. In Seoni, the unfavourable agricultural conditions of the autumn did much to increase the labour-supply, and very good progress was thus possible on the Rumal tank. In the Drug district some extensions of distributaries were effected, but most of the tank projects in this district are now finished.

Minor works.

142. The total expenditure on minor works was Rs. 4,80,000 from Provincial revenues, and Rs. 14,456 from contributions. There were 33 field-embankments, 65 State tanks, and 30 grant-in-aid tanks in progress.

CHAPTER V

REVENUE AND FINANCE

[Further details and statistics will be found in the Finance and Revenue Account of the Government of India for the year 1907-08.]

GROSS REVENUE

143. The following statement compares the receipts, expenditure and closing balances under the various heads of accounts for the years 1906-07 and 1907-08 :— **Gross Revenue.**

Heads.	Receipts.		Expenditure.		Closing balance.	
	1906-07.	1907-08.	1906-07.	1907-08.	1906-07.	1907-08.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imperial Revenues ...	1,26,38,214	98,77,796	38,76,987	41,27,870	...	...
Provincial Revenues ...	2,07,56,212	2,15,61,722	1,90,05,486	2,24,77,024	57,85,726	48,70,424
Local Funds—						
Incorporated ...	25,95,269	26,95,982	24,21,086	28,35,740	16,38,885	14,99,127
Excluded ...	7,64,855	8,20,986	6,61,487	8,13,319	3,37,562	3,45,229
Municipal Revenues ...	20,03,767	20,65,520	18,62,492	22,34,043	8,18,772	6,50,249
Total ...	3,87,58,317	3,70,22,006	2,78,27,538	3,24,87,996	85,80,945	73,65,029

(*a*) IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE

144. The following statement compares the actuals of the two years 1906-07 and 1907-08. The Major heads under which striking differences have occurred are given in detail :— **Imperial Revenue.**

Revenue and Receipts.	Actuals.		Expenditure.	Actuals.	
	1906-07.	1907-08.		1906-07.	1907-08.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Land Revenue. { Proper ...	85,36,653	79,93,188	Forest ...	6,71,439	7,91,836
{ Adjustment .	—38,12,000	—54,39,811	Famine Relief ...	...	1,13,566
Stamps ...	12,30,239	13,78,769	Other heads ...	32,05,548	32,22,468
Excise ...	41,62,284	36,49,528			
Forest ...	12,00,579	11,45,064			
Tributes ...	2,93,537	1,41,437			
Miscellaneous ...	37,318	4,135			
Other heads ...	9,89,604	10,05,486			
Total ...	1,26,38,214	98,77,796	Total ...	38,76,987	41,27,870

145. LAND REVENUE.—The decrease in "Land Revenue-Proper" was due to unfavourable agricultural conditions during the latter half of the year owing to which liberal remissions and suspensions were sanctioned. The increase under adjustments is due to additional transfers to Provincial Revenues sanctioned by the Government of India during the year under report.

146. STAMPS.—The increase is ascribed to transactions by agriculturists consequent on crop-failure and greater commercial activity attending the diminution of plague.

147. EXCISE.—The discontinuance of the system of taking advance collections from contractors and scarcity during the second half of the year are responsible for the decrease.

148. FOREST.—The decrease was due to failure of the lac crop in Raipur, less demand for grass in Chanda, smaller sales of scantlings and sleepers in Mandla, remissions of grazing dues, &c., in some forests and general failure of revenue on account of scarcity.

149. TRIBUTES.—The receipts for 1906-07 were unduly swollen by the payment by the Nandgaon State of arrears of tribute for 1905-06 and also by an advance payment for 1907-08. Short recovery of tribute from the Khairagarh State during the year under report also contributes to the decrease.

150. MISCELLANEOUS.—The high receipts in 1906-07 were due to receipts on account of recoveries of famine expenditure and on account of relinquishment of the land acquired for the Khamgaon-Jalna Railway.

EXPENDITURE

151. FOREST.—The increase in 1907-08 was due to charges for the full year having been incurred on account of the office of the Chief Conservator of Forests, whereas they were incurred only for a few months of the year 1906-07, as well as to the revision of the superior and subordinate Forest services, and the undertaking of grass operations with a view to afford relief to the people affected by scarcity.

152. FAMINE RELIEF.—The failure of crops during the latter half of 1907-08 necessitated the undertaking of famine relief operations in some districts.

(*b*) REVENUE AND FINANCE OTHER THAN IMPERIAL

Provincial Revenue.

153. The following statement compares the actuals of the two years 1906-07 and 1907-08. The Major heads under which striking differences occurred are shown separately :—

Revenue and Receipts.	Actuals.		Expenditure.	Actuals.	
	1906-07.	1907-08.		1906-07.	1907-08.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Opening balance	40,35,000	57,85,726	Land Revenue ...	33,43,930	35,51,474
Land Revenue { Proper ...	85,36,653	79,93,189	Forest ...	6,71,439	7,91,836
Land Revenue { Adjustments .	+38,12,000	+54,39,811	Interest ...	62,332	86,653
Stamps ...	12,30,238	13,78,769	Law and Justice--Courts of Law	20,25,200	21,64,239
Excise ...	41,62,284	36,49,528	Law and Justice—Jails ...	5,11,843	4,81,132
Forest ...	12,00,580	11,45,064	Police ...	25,84,267	28,63,824
Registration ...	2,10,204	2,56,018	Education ...	8,89,845	9,56,827
Miscellaneous ...	2,17,062	1,89,894	Scientific and other Minor Departments.	2,57,511	3,63,614
Civil Works—P. W. D. ...	1,42,368	2,41,806	Superannuation and Retired allowances.	5,81,624	6,05,517
Other heads ..	12,44,823	12,67,643	Stationery and Printing ...	3,03,419	4,25,166
			Reduction or avoidance of debt.	...	12,80,000
			Civil Works—Civil ...	56,001	2,523
			Do. P. W. D. ...	52,09,122	64,01,005
			Other heads ...	25,08,953	25,03,214
Total ..	2,07,56,212	2,15,61,722	Total ...	1,90,05,486	2,24,77,024
			Closing Balance ...	57,85,726	48,70,424
GRAND TOTAL ...	2,47,91,212	2,73,47,448	GRAND TOTAL ...	2,47,91,212	2,73,47,448

154. PROVINCIAL REVENUE.—The variations under the *divided heads* have been explained in the section "*Imperial Revenue and Finance.*" Those under the remaining heads are explained as follows :—

Registration.—The increase in 1907-08 was due to land transactions consequent on the failure of crops.

Miscellaneous.—The decrease was due to the discontinuance of the recoveries of audit fees from the Local Bodies and smaller contributions for audit and control on account of the relinquishment of certain Court of Wards estates.

Civil Works—Public Works Department.—Higher receipts on account of sale of produce, ferry receipts and rents of buildings account for the increased revenue of the year.

155. PROVINCIAL EXPENDITURE.—The differences under the heads detailed in the above statement are explained below :—

Land Revenue.—The increase was due to operations for the regular revision of settlement in Damoh, Jubbulpore and Raipur districts, the payment from

the general revenues of the entire pay of patwaris owing to the abolition of the patwari cess, payment of compensation to patwaris, the undertaking of extra work in the improvement of tanks and estates and payment of grain compensation allowances, as well as doles to kotwars on account of scarcity.

Forests.—The increase has been explained under "Imperial Revenue and Finance."

Interest.—The grant of additional loans to cultivators on account of scarcity explains the increase.

Law and Justice—Courts of Law.—(1) The separation of the Judicial and Executive services and their consequent reorganization, (2) the partial introduction of the scheme of appointing pleaders as public prosecutors and (3) the payment of grain compensation allowance, account for the increase.

Law and Justice—Jails.—The decrease was due to the reduction of the status of the Akola Central Jail to that of a District Jail and of the Ellichpur Sub-Jail to that of a Police lock-up as well as to smaller purchases of raw material owing to the stoppage of the weaving industry at the Akola Jail and owing to the replacement of other industries in the District Jails by stone-breaking and aloe pounding.

Police.—The increase is due to the revision of the office of the Inspector-General of Police, the introduction of the revised police scheme, the scheme of steam boiler inspection and the payment of grain compensation allowances.

Education.—The revision of the pay of teachers, the payment of grain compensation and increased grants in support of municipal and local schools chiefly account for the increase.

Scientific and other Minor Departments.—The increase is accounted for by the expansion of the Agricultural Department and the extension of experimental cultivation, the introduction of provincial veterinary hospitals and dispensaries, the restoration of the Chanda garden and increased expenditure on account of industrial survey and co-operative credit societies.

Stationery and Printing.—The revision of the Government and the Jail Press, the cost of stationery and materials supplied to the Government Presses by the Central Press, Calcutta, and more supply of stationery to the Province by the central stores, Calcutta, explain the high expenditure in 1907-08.

Reduction or Avoidance of Debt.—The arrangement for the reduction or avoidance of debt was given effect to during 1907-08 under orders contained in Government of India, Finance Department, No. 1674-A, dated the 20th March 1907.

Civil Works—Civil.—In 1906-07 special contributions were paid to some Municipalities for improvement of drains, construction and repairs of water-works and other works of public utility, and account for the high expenditure in that year.

Civil Works—Public Works Department.—Larger outlay on the construction and repairs of civil buildings, communications and other public improvements explains the increase.

156. LOCAL FUNDS.—These funds comprise Incorporated and Excluded Local Funds. The receipts, expenditure and the opening and closing balances of the Incorporated Local Funds for the year 1907-08 are given below:—

Name of the fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Expenditure.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
District Fund	16,29,816	26,91,336	43,21,152	28,34,683	14,86,469
Inland Labour Transport Fund ...	9,069	4,646	13,715	1,057	12,658
Total ...	16,38,885	26,95,982	43,34,867	28,35,740	14,99,127

157. ROAD AND EDUCATION CESSES.—These cesses form the important source of the income of District Funds and amounted to Rs. 3,90,217 and Rs. 3,12,501 in 1907-08 against Rs. 4,24,502 and Rs. 3,16,266 in 1906-07 respectively. The decrease under both the cesses is due to smaller realizations of revenue on account of failure of crops.

158. EXCLUDED LOCAL FUNDS.—The Cantonment Funds, Cantonment Dispensary Funds, Town and Bazar Funds, Police Remount Fund, Dispensary Fund, Museum Fund, Famine Orphan Charitable Fund, Taluk Fund (Melghat) and Grain and Cotton Market Funds are treated as Excluded Local Funds. The total transactions and the balances are shown in the statement under "Gross Revenue."

159. MUNICIPAL REVENUE.—The transactions and the balances of the Municipal Funds are shown in the statement under "Gross Revenue."

CHAPTER VI

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES

1—DETAILS OF CENSUS

DETAILS OF CENSUS

160. An account of this subject will be found on pages 31—52 of the report on the Administration of the Central Provinces for 1901-02 and on pages 22—25 of the report on the Administration of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts for the same year.

2—BIRTHS AND DEATHS

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1907 and Table XIII-2-13 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1907-08.]

161. No change was made in the system of registration during the year, save that the old village birth and death registers of Berar were replaced by those maintained in Central Provinces. The deduced population at the end of the year 1907 was 12,979,659 or 9·21 per cent in excess of the census enumeration of 1901. More verification of vital statistics was done by Revenue Officers than in the previous year, but less by Medical and Police Officers; owing to the prevalence of plague verification was retarded in many districts. While registration of births and deaths is very fairly accurate as to totals, the distribution by diseases is very untrustworthy. It is common for plague cases to be entered as fever during both the early and later stages of an epidemic, and the district returns for respiratory diseases show such remarkable variations that it is impossible to consider them even approximately correct. With the agency available accurate diagnosis is not attainable, but even with that agency certain main differentiations could be more accurately effected than at present. **System of registration.**

162. The total number of births registered in the province was 623,529 as against 614,616 in 1906 with a ratio of 52·46 *per mille* or 0·74 in excess of that of the previous year and 11·69 in excess of the decennial mean. The birth-rate was again the highest in India, and has only been exceeded in two years (1904 and 1905) out of the last twenty-five. In all districts except Jubbulpore, Akola and Buldana, which suffered very severely from plague, the births exceeded the deaths. Male births exceeded females by 5·32 per cent, and as usual the rural birth-rate was much higher than the urban. **Births.**

163. The climatic conditions of the year were decidedly abnormal, and the year did not as a fact prove healthy, for though the death-rate declined from 43·47 *per mille* in 1906 to 41·70 in 1907, no year in which the rate is as much as 40 can be described as healthy. Non-epidemic mortality was 37·84 *per mille* or the same as in 1906, while epidemic mortality fell from 5·62 to 3·86. Under the system now followed of basing ratios on census population, the high birth-rate has the effect of making the death-rate appear much larger than it really is, and during the period intervening between one census and the next, mortality statistics become increasingly unfavourable and may be quoted to support a conclusion, which is wholly fallacious, that the vitality of the people is deteriorating. Calculated on the deduced population the death-rate of the year falls to 38·96, and if further allowance be made for the influx of people attracted by the commercial development of the province, and the return of famine emigrants who were absent during the census, it will be clear that the death-rate of 1907 is in reality not nearly so high as the official record shows. **Deaths.**

164. There were 60,000 fewer deaths than in the previous year from cholera, small-pox and fever and other causes, while plague, bowel complaints and respiratory diseases accounted for 39,000 more than in 1906. The province **Chief diseases.**

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

suffered from two distinct epidemics of cholera during the year. In the first, which was a mild one and lasted from January to June, the infection could be traced to pilgrims returning from Allahabad, Benares and Jagannath (Puri) fairs, and in the second and more severe one the eastern districts received the infection from Puri, the south-western districts from Pandharpur, and the central districts from both. Plague was the cause of 37,774 deaths, of which 19,410 occurred in Berar, and the disease for the first time made its appearance in Raipur and Drug. The towns which suffered most were Jubbulpore in the Central Provinces, and Amraoti, Akot, Jalgaon, Akola and Shegaon in Berar. There was a decrease in deaths from fever, but the decrease was smaller than might have been expected from the dryness of the autumn.

Special measures.

165. The measures adopted for checking cholera were the distribution of medicines through the Vaccination staff and disinfection of the sources of water-supply by the use of permanganate of potash. His Majesty the King Emperor's message to his Indian subjects, and the receipt of a letter from the Government of India regarding the campaign against plague, afforded the Chief Commissioner a suitable opportunity to record in a resolution the lines to be followed in fighting this disease. Inoculation, rat-destruction and evacuation were the chief measures advocated, but stress was also laid on the importance of preparing in advance the necessary measures for organization, sanitation and encampment, and on the encouragement of self-help among the people. The measures there recommended were generally adopted. Inoculation achieved popularity and success even at places like Raipur where the disease had been hitherto unknown, and the total number of inoculations performed was 14,440. Rat-destruction was carried on systematically on a considerable scale in the Nagpur district and with more or less vigour in many towns and districts. Evacuation, except in the rains, is a measure which the people require little persuasion to adopt.

3—EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

[Report on the Inland Emigration of the Central Provinces for the year ending 30th June 1908, and Table XXXV-4 of the Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India for 1906-07.]

Emigration.

166. There was a marked revival of recruitment in the year. This revival is mainly due to the prevalence of scarcity both in the province itself and in the neighbouring States of Central India, and must therefore be regarded as only temporary. The relaxation of the provisions of the Act requiring registration and of other restrictions in the case of garden sardars employed by the Tea District Labour Supply Association, which was allowed in accordance with the recommendation of the Assam Labour Enquiry Committee, and the reduction from Rs. 10 to Rs. 2 in the fees of licensed recruiters, also contributed to a small extent toward the success of recruiting. The total number of emigrants recruited increased from 1,395 to 6,447 of whom 3,776 were males and 2,671 females. In the two chief recruiting districts, Jubbulpore and Bilaspur, there are signs of some improvement in the success of the garden sardar system.

Health of emigrants.

167. The accommodation provided was satisfactory, and depôts and rest-houses were regularly inspected. The health of the coolies was good throughout the year, and no outbreak of epidemic disease occurred in any depôt.

Working of Act VI of 1901.

168. Irregularities in recruiting were few in number. The licenses of three recruiters were cancelled under Section 31 of the Act in Bilaspur and there were 25 prosecutions of sardars at the instance of local agents under Section 170 (*b*). Three sardari labourers were prosecuted under Section 184 (*b*) of the Act, but were acquitted on agreeing to go to the tea-gardens. One case of illegal recruitment was prosecuted under Section 164 of the Act, and a serious complaint was brought against a sardar for kidnapping a boy aged 10 years from his native village.

Financial.

169. The total receipts from fees amounted to Rs. 4,655. Registration fees accounted for Rs. 2,999, while Rs. 1,656 consisted of license fees. The expenditure consisted almost entirely of the pay and allowances of registration clerks and amounted to Rs. 784.

4—MEDICAL RELIEF

[Triennial Report on Hospitals and Dispensaries in the Central Provinces and Berar for the years 1905—07 and Table XIV-2-6 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for the year 1907-08.]

170. There were 269 dispensaries at work at the close of the year. Of these 32 were maintained by the State, 149 from local funds and the balance consisted of private or railway dispensaries. Seventeen new dispensaries were opened during the year and four were closed, while four were re-classified. **Number of dispensaries.**

171. The number of patients increased from 1,672,706 in 1906 to 1,700,487 in 1907, but the increase in the number of out-door patients was not commensurate with the increase in the number of dispensaries, owing, no doubt, in some measure to the prevalence of plague, but chiefly to the dryness and consequent healthiness of the autumn. Women are gradually overcoming their reluctance to attend medical institutions, a change which has been assisted by the arrangements made for the separate examination and treatment of the sexes. **Number of patients.**

172. The number of private dispensaries increased by two. The total number of patients treated rose from 341,594 to 377,936. These institutions continue to do very good work and much valuable surgical work was undertaken at the Mission dispensaries, more particularly at the Mure Memorial Hospital, Nagpur. **Private dispensaries.**

173. The principal diseases treated at the dispensaries were malarial fevers, diseases of the eye, diseases of the respiratory and digestive systems, ulcers and skin diseases. Tuberculosis shows an increase, but there was a fall in the number of cholera cases treated. **Relative frequency of diseases.**

174. The total number of operations performed was 41,792 as against 41,044 in 1906. Most of these were of a trivial nature. The chief operations consisted of extraction of lens for cataract, operating for stone, obstetric operations and amputations. **Surgical operations.**

175. Excluding cash balances the total receipts in 1907 showed a decrease of Rs. 27,000. Subscriptions rose in a few districts, but showed a distinct falling off in many others, and the fact that the contributions to dispensaries have not increased with the rapid growth in the material prosperity of the provinces cannot be regarded otherwise than as disappointing. In Berar especially the small amount of subscriptions realized from the public is in striking disproportion to the general wealth of the people, and the placing of dispensaries in that Division under popular control has not as yet resulted in stimulating private charity to the extent anticipated when this step was decided upon. **Income.**

176. The total expenditure increased by nearly Rs. 34,000 owing to the rise in the number of dispensaries open. The cash balance rose during the year from Rs. 2,02,391 to Rs. 2,11,104. **Expenditure.**

5—TREATMENT OF THE INSANE

TREATMENT OF THE INSANE

[Notes on the Annual Statements of the Lunatic Asylums in the Central Provinces for the year 1907 and Table XV-2-8 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1907-08.]

177. The inmates of the Nagpur and Jubbulpore Asylums numbered 90 criminal and 306 non-criminal lunatics or altogether 49 more than in the preceding year. The necessary accommodation having been completed all the female insanes at Jubbulpore were transferred to the asylum at Nagpur. It has since been decided that the Jubbulpore males shall also be transferred to Nagpur, the Jubbulpore Asylum being abolished. The number of deaths during the year fell from 31 to 26, the chief causes of death being as usual old age and epilepsy. The daily average number of sick for the two asylums together fell from 9·32 to 8·19 and the health of the inmates both at Jubbulpore and at Nagpur was good. **Numbers and health.**

178. Due attention was paid to tracing the causes of insanity, but the reliability of the causes assigned in new admissions is doubtful as such particulars are usually filled in by the Police or the Magistrates, and have to be supplemented when possible by enquiries from relatives or friends. Ganja-smoking, alcoholic habits and heredity were the principal causes of lunacy ascertained. **Investigation of causes.**

TREATMENT OF THE INSANE

Expenditure.

179. The total expenditure rose from Rs. 38,498 in 1906 to Rs. 48,283 in 1907. The increase was due to expenditure on the dairy-farm at Nagpur, and the rise in the number of inmates accompanied by an increase of establishment. There was, however, a fall in the cost per head, which was Rs. 86 at Nagpur and Rs. 77 at Jubbulpore, the corresponding cost for 1906 being Rs. 97 and Rs. 78, respectively.

Industries and Improvements.

180. As in the previous year the inmates of the Nagpur Asylum were engaged in garden, dairy and farm work. At Jubbulpore the lunatics were employed partly in gardening and partly in the manufacture of clothing and bedding. Profits from manufactures were stationary at Jubbulpore and fell by Rs. 260 at Nagpur on account of a smaller outturn from the dairy, the stock of cattle being weeded out and new stock purchased to the value of Rs. 700.

SANITATION

6--SANITATION

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces for the year 1907 and Table XII-2-13 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1907-08.]

Chief Sanitary works.

181. A sum of Rs. 20,000 was spent in Seoni in extending the distribution service and the catchment area of the tank from which the town derives its water-supply. In Jubbulpore an important project in connection with the water-works estimated at Rs. 3,23,258 was taken in hand and about a lakh and a half were spent on it during the year. Small amounts were also spent in Bhandara, Khandwa and Burhanpur, in improving the water-supply. For Akola drainage improvements estimated to cost over Rs. 47,000 were sanctioned and at Jubbulpore the construction of drains estimated to cost nearly Rs. 10,000 was commenced.

Municipal sanitation.

182. In the city of Nagpur over Rs. 10,000 were spent in extending the piped water-supply, constructing drains, erecting additional public latrines, and acquiring land for certain market places. In Akola nearly Rs. 9,000 were laid out in repairs of water-works and in construction and repairs of wells. Amraoti Municipality improved its water-supply and conservancy at a cost of of over Rs. 14,000. All other Municipalities, except Balaghat, spent various smaller amounts in improving the general sanitation of their towns. There is still much room for improvement in municipal sanitation, and there are no less than nine towns in the province where the birth-rate is either less than or only slightly exceeds the death-rate. Overcrowding and want of drainage are the principal causes for this unsatisfactory position. The subject is engaging careful attention, and a grant, which has been received from the Government of India for the purpose, will be supplemented from Provincial revenues as far as funds permit.

Rural sanitation.

183. During the year the provisions of the Village Sanitation Act were extended to four villages and withdrawn from one. As usual the main items of expenditure during the year were clearing of village sites and general conservancy. Roads and drains also had their share, but the amount spent on water-supply was insufficient. During the year meetings of the Sanitary Board were held at the head-quarters of all but four districts, and a good many new wells were constructed and old ones repaired under its directions mostly from the funds of District Boards. The question of reconstituting the Sanitary Board on more practical lines is still under consideration.

VACCINATION

7—VACCINATION

[Triennial Report on Vaccination in the Central Provinces for the years 1905-06 to 1907-08 and Table XVI-2-8 of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1907-08.]

General record of vaccination.

184. The total number of operations performed by vaccinators and Hospital Assistants was 599,247 or 18,134 less than were carried out over a similar area in 1906, and the average number of operations performed by each vaccinator was 2,022 or 47 less than in the previous year. The decrease is attributed to the prevalence of plague in many parts of the province, and to the dislocation of the staff caused by the transfer of vaccinators to the control of local

bodies. For the same reasons the number of revaccinations also fell. The percentage of success in revaccination was returned as 76 and in primary vaccination 98, but there is reason to believe that in the case of revaccination the results are much exaggerated, and it has been found necessary to insist on more extended and closer supervision of the work performed by the vaccinators.

Vaccination in Municipalities.

185. The Vaccination Act is in force in 50 out of the 59 existing municipalities, but was not extended to any town during the year. The results of vaccination of children in municipalities were satisfactory: out of 24,936 children under one year of age available for vaccination 22,911 were successfully vaccinated.

Mortality from small-pox.

186. During the year 1907-08 the mortality from small-pox in the province was less by 1,000 than in the previous year, and fell at the rate of 0·44 per thousand of the population. Mandla and the three districts of the Chhattisgarh Division returned high mortality from the disease.

Lymph.

187. As usual glycerinated lymph was the prophylactic generally employed, and was used in as many as 98½ per cent of the operations performed. The Paste Depôt at Amraoti has been abolished, and the Central Provinces system, under which each Civil Surgeon cultivates his own supply of lymph locally, has been introduced into Berar.

Expenditure.

188. The total cost of the district vaccination establishment rose during the year from Rs. 59,987 to Rs. 62,925. The increase was due to compensation allowance paid to the staff on account of the dearness of grain, the inclusion of the pay of tour khalasis, increased travelling allowance paid to vaccinators transferred on account of the redistribution of the staff when control was handed over to the local bodies, and the erection of district lymph depôts in some head-quarter towns. The average cost (two annas) of each successful operation however remained the same as in the previous year. In the Feudatory States the expenditure on vaccination fell slightly, but the cost of each successful vaccination remained unchanged at 1 anna and 3 pies.

CHAPTER VII

INSTRUCTION

GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

1—GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

189. An account of this subject will be found at pages 118 to 124 of the Report on the Administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1901-02 and also at pages 80 to 83 of the Report on the Administration of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts for the same year.

EDUCATION

2—EDUCATION

(Report on the state and progress of education in the Central Provinces for the year 1907-08 and Tables X-1, 2, 3-I, 3-J, 4-I, 5-D, 5-E, 6-J, 6-K, 7-J, 7-K, 8-I, 8-J, 9-E, 9-F, 10-I, 10-J, and Table XI of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for the year 1907-08.)

Number of schools and scholars.

190. In the year 1907-08 there were 3,490 educational institutions of various kinds with 258,308 pupils on their rolls, showing an increase of 144 institutions and 20,869 pupils over the figures of last year. The increase in the number of institutions and pupils was chiefly confined to boys' primary schools both in British territory and in the Feudatory States, the increase in those of girls' schools not being very remarkable. The number of boys under tuition was 235,008 and of girls 23,300. About four-fifths of the total number were under tuition in primary schools.

Features of the year.

191. Notwithstanding the presence of plague and scarcity the progress made during the year was satisfactory. The percentage of boys of school-going age who attend school rose from 22·2 to 23·7 and that of girls from 1·9 to 2·2. As the Government of India have raised the questions of improving secondary education, making primary education free, and the general policy to be pursued in the future, the educational activity of the year was mainly confined to the formulation and discussion of various schemes, and no action was taken for any general reform. Some improvements were, however, carried out. The staff of all the High Schools was strengthened to meet the increase in the number of pupils and to provide for the teaching of science and oriental languages, and the Rs. 30 grade in the graded list of secondary teachers was abolished so as to offer better initial prospects to men when entering the Department. The Hostel system has been improved by the grant of allowances to Superintendents and Medical Attendants and by the placing of the menial establishment under proper control. Increased hostel accommodation is much needed everywhere.

Expenditure on Education.

192. The total expenditure on education in British territory increased by over two lakhs of rupees and amounted to nearly 24 lakhs in all. Of this 37 per cent was from provincial and imperial revenues and 38 per cent from District Funds, the balance being from Municipal Funds (6·87), fees (6·76) and other miscellaneous sources. The expenditure on education not only kept pace with the increased number of schools and scholars, but was also devoted to improvements in the shape of increase in the number and value of scholarships, provision of additional buildings and apparatus, and the enhancement of the pay of the teaching staff. These measures naturally increased the cost of educating each pupil, which rose from Rs. 6-14-10 to Rs. 7-9-8. It is noticeable that out of the total increase of over two lakhs of rupees in the expenditure on education from all sources, more than one-half was from District Funds, chiefly to meet increases in the pay of teachers.

University Education.

193. There are only three Arts Colleges in the Provinces, namely, the Government College at Jubbulpore and the two aided institutions known as the Hislop College and the Morris College at Nagpur. All three are affiliated to the Allahabad University, which sent two of its deputies during the year to inspect these institutions, and their suggestions for improvement are now being considered. As was expected last year from the extraordinary success of boys at the Entrance and

School Final Examinations held in 1907, the number of students in the colleges rose from 274 to 381, but the percentage of attendance fell seriously in the Jubbulpore and Morris Colleges owing to the disturbances which agitated these institutions at various times. The examination results nevertheless showed an improvement and 50 per cent of successes were obtained. With the exception of providing the laboratory of the Jubbulpore College with gas, fitting up the laboratory of the Hislop College, and making considerable headway in the work of fitting up the laboratory attached to the Victoria College of Science at Nagpur, no operations for the material equipment of the Colleges were undertaken during the year. The site for the erection of a new building for the Government College at Jubbulpore has, however, been fixed, and plans and estimates for converting the old Residency at Nagpur into a suitable building for the reception of the Morris College have been prepared. These works will be undertaken as funds permit and buildings now used for other purposes become available.

Secondary Education.

194. During the year there were 421 schools imparting secondary education to 48,635 pupils, as against 412 schools with 46,218 pupils in the previous year. That the increase in the number of pupils was not larger was due to the fact that the percentage of passes at the Primary Examination, which constitutes the main source of the replenishment of the secondary classes, was practically the same as in the previous year, while the extraordinary success of boys at the Matriculation and School Final Examinations of 1907 depleted the 7th Standard classes of high schools. The results of the Matriculation Examination (41 per cent), though fairly satisfactory, compare very unfavourably with those of the previous year (71 per cent), but the results of that year were abnormal. As regards the Middle School Examination, excluding Jubbulpore and Chhattisgarh Circles, for which no returns have been received, the number of candidates rose by 41 per cent, while the number of passes fell from 69 to 58 per cent. The High School Scholarship Examination continues to be unpopular, and the question whether failure to pass this examination should debar candidates for admission to high schools is under consideration. The scheme for the School Final Examination has since the close of the year been settled and is now in course of submission to the Government of India. The questions of the revision of the curriculum, text-books for the anglo-vernacular schools and of the curriculum of middle vernacular schools are under consideration.

Primary Education.

195. During the year there were 3,038 Primary Schools with 208,188 pupils, out of which 261 were girls' schools with 20,801 pupils. Notwithstanding agricultural scarcity, the increase in the number of pupils was very great, but the number of schools has not kept pace with the number of pupils and the old schools are getting rapidly overcrowded. Altogether 136 new buildings were erected during year, but there are still as many as 378 or 17 per cent of the boys' schools without buildings of their own. Berar, where the extension of schools has taken precedence of the provision of buildings, is most deficient in this respect. The provision of buildings is, however, a matter to which the District Councils are now devoting a considerable proportion of their large balances.

Training Schools.

196. During the year the recruitment and outturn of the Training Institutions were satisfactory, and as a result of the increased rate of stipends a better class of candidates is appearing in Berar. In the female normal school at Jubbulpore the number rose from 27 to 33, the highest there has yet been. There was also an encouraging increase in the number of students at the female normal school at Amraoti, and it is hoped that in future the number will be still higher as the Administration has sanctioned certain pecuniary concessions with the object of inducing teachers to send their wives to the normal school. The question of raising the Jubbulpore Training Institution to the status of a College is part of the scheme for the improvement of secondary education which is about to be referred to the Government of India.

Technical Education.

197. During the year three students were sent to England with State technical scholarships, two for the study of mining and one for the study of textile industries. A student was also given a scholarship to study under the Director-General of Geological Survey. As it has been found difficult to secure suitable

candidates for the State technical scholarships tenable in Europe, three scholarships have been instituted for graduates and undergraduates to take the textile course at the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute at Bombay, but the question of establishing similar scholarships for a course in mining at Sibpur has been deferred until the settlement of the scheme for starting a Technical College or School at Nagpur for training men in engineering and mining. The practical engineering class at Jubbulpore continued to work satisfactorily; the examination results were good and all the passed candidates obtained employment. The industrial school at Basim has not proved a success; and with regard to that at Amraoti, it is reported that it is very difficult to keep the boys at school owing to the attractions of better paid employment in the mills. The number of students in the Law Class attached to the Jubbulpore College fell from 15 to 13, and as it does not seem worth while to continue the Class for so small a number of pupils it will be abolished. The creation of two Law lectureships at the Morris College in Nagpur has been followed by an increase in the number of students. The subject of Agricultural education has been dealt with in Chapter IV, Section 1, *supra*.

Female Education.

198. The number of schools for native girls rose during the year from 269 to 275 and the number of pupils from 13,782 to 14,818. There are indications which point to the increasing popularity of female education. Not only are demands being made by the residents of important villages for the establishment of girls' schools, but in some cases such demands are accompanied by the assurances of residents that they will contribute half the cost of establishing these schools. The opening of new schools is largely dependent on the supply of qualified female teachers, the dearth of whom not only makes the extension of female education a matter of some difficulty, but hampers the maintenance of existing schools. Among other encouraging features of this branch of education may be mentioned the increased interest shown by Indian ladies, and Ladies' Committees have been organised at certain centres.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS — 3—LITERATURE AND THE PRESS

[Table XII-I of the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India for 1907-08.]

Publications.

199. During the year under report 65 books were published as against 52 in the previous year. Of these 39 were in Marathi, 1 in English, 17 in Hindi, 7 in Sanskrit, and 1 in Marwari. Nine were religious works, 20 poetical, 3 geographical, 2 political, 1 historical and 1 medical. Three treated of law and two of mathematical and mechanical science, while the rest dealt with miscellaneous subjects.

The Vernacular Press.

200. There were 25 vernacular newspapers and periodicals published in the Central Provinces and Berar during the year. Except the *Hindi Kesari*, a weekly paper of pronounced "extremist" tone, none of these had any considerable circulation.

Printing Presses.

201. There are in all 48 Printing Presses in the Province of which 19 are in Berar.

LITERARY SOCIETIES — 4—LITERARY SOCIETIES

202. During the year there were 79 Scientific and Literary Societies in the Provinces, as compared with 90 in the previous year. Most of these are subscription libraries and depend chiefly for support on subscriptions from members. In the case of 16 societies, however, this source of income is supplemented by grants from Government and Local Funds.

ARTS AND SCIENCES — 5—ARTS AND SCIENCES

203. The rearrangement of the exhibits in the Nagpur Museum, which was begun in 1906-07, was continued during the year. The setting up of the exhibits of archæological interest was completed, and they are now shown to the best

advantage. A taxidermist was employed during the greater part of the year and a considerable number of birds, including a good collection from the Melghat in Berar, was set up. As a result of the stop put to certain annoyances to which visitors were subjected by the Museum staff, the number of visitors during the year rose from 123,859 to 176,640. The Raipur museum received little attention; none of the sum of Rs. 940 provided for fittings and exhibits was spent.

On the return of the Agricultural Assistant who was under training at the tussar farm at Chaibassa in Bengal for the first six months of the year, a tussar farm near Arsoda in the Chanda district was established, but only preliminary work in the way of obtaining cocoons could be done. The objects of the farm are to revive the industry in Chanda, and to ascertain whether it is possible to rear the worms year after year on the same area. Until this can be done no great expansion of the industry can be looked for.

A Serampore weaver was employed at the Raipur Weaving School to demonstrate the working of the Serampore loom. The school has supplied a few trained boys to the cloth and carpet-weaving workshops of the Feudatory Chiefs, but has not yet resulted in the adoption of a fly-shuttle loom by the weavers of Chhattisgarh.

CHAPTER VIII

ARCHÆOLOGY

[For further information see Archæological Survey of India (New Series) Volume XIX.]

ARCHÆOLOGY

204. A sum of Rs. 2,603 was expended in removing cactus and other vegetation from the Gawilgarh fort near Chikalda. Operations for the preservation and restoration of the fort walls at Chanda were continued and Rs. 7,262 spent, thus bringing the total to Rs. 21,866. Only the building up of a couple of ramparts now remains to complete the work. A sum of Rs. 4,848 was expended in carrying out repairs and improvements to certain temples and the fort at Wairagarh in the Chanda district. The improvements to the Deogarh fort were completed at a cost of Rs. 2,601 and repairs to the temples at Kharod and Pali costing Rs. 1,454 were carried out.

CHAPTER IX

MISCELLANEOUS

1—ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION

ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION

Ecclesiastical.

205. The diocese of Nagpur was formed in the year 1903, and includes the whole of the Central Provinces, Berar, Central India, Ajmere-Merwara, and all stations in Rajputana, except Mount Abu. There were no changes during the year.

2—STATIONERY

STATIONERY

206. The value of stationery supplied for use in offices has increased from Rs. 1,05,960 in 1906-07 to Rs. 1,38,107 in 1907-08. Under the departmental heads Revenue, Forest Administration, Public Works, Police and Minor there is an increase of Rs. 17,930 in the value of stationery obtained from the Calcutta office, but the heads Political, Law and Justice, Education, Medical and Jails show a decrease of Rs. 14,057. The increase is attributed principally to the supply of typewriters, various kinds of paper, drawing materials and tracing cloth, and to the fact that in the Minor Departments most of the officers drew no supplies in the previous year. There has also been an increase of Rs. 2,515 in the value of country stationery used during the year. The net increase under all heads is Rs. 32,147.

Under Stationery and Printing there is an increase from Rs. 27,595 in 1906-07 to Rs. 60,842 in 1907-08, due to the supply of printing, coloured and cartridge papers and binding material.

3—GENERAL—MISCELLANEOUS

GENERAL.

207. There are in all 171 raingauges in the Provinces, of which 13 are observatories under the control of the Imperial Meteorological Department, 22 are maintained by the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department, 15 are in the Feudatory States, and the rest are under the control of the Director of Land Records. New stations were established by the Public Works Department at Ghot in Chanda and Jam-Mohgaon in Balaghat; otherwise there was no change in the number maintained, but six gauges were moved to more suitable sites, with the concurrence of the Director-General of Observatories. All gauges except nine were inspected during the year, and defects, when noticed, were remedied.

Registration of rainfall.

Govt. Press, Nagpur :—No. 1708, Civil Sectt.—22-1-09—490.

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

TRAL PROVINCES & BERAR

FOR THE YEAR

1908-09

Agents for the sale of Books published by the Central Provinces Administration.

IN ENGLAND.

E. A. ARNOLD, 41 & 43, Maddox Street, Bond Street, W., London.

CONSTABLE & CO., 10, Orange Street, Leicester Square, W. C., London.

P. S. KING & SON, 9, Bridge Street, Westminster, S. W., London.

KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH, TRUBNER & CO., Charing Cross Road, W. C., London.

B. QUARITCH, 11, Grafton Street, New Bond Street, W., London.

GRINDLAY & CO., 54, Parliament Street, London, S. W.

DEIGHTON BELL & CO., Cambridge.

B. H. BLACKWELL, 50 & 51, Broad Street, Oxford.

HENRY S. KING & CO., 65, Cornhill, E. C.

T. FISHER UNWIN, 1, Adelphi Terrace, London, W. C.

LUZAC & CO., 46, Great Russell Street, London.

W. THACKER & CO., 2, Creed Lane, London, E. C.

ON THE CONTINENT.

FRIEDLANDER & SOHN, 11, Carlstrasse, Berlin.

OTTO HARRASSOWITZ, Leipzig.

KARL W. HIERSEMANN, Leipzig.

ERNEST LEROUX, 28, Rue Bonaparte, Paris.

MARTINUS NIJHOFF, The Hague.

RUDOLF HAUPT, Halle-a-S., Germany.

IN INDIA AND THE COLONIES.

THACKER, SPINK & CO., Calcutta and Simla.

NEWMAN & CO., Calcutta.

R. CAMBRAY & CO., Calcutta.

S. K. LAHIRI & CO., Calcutta.

A. J. COMBRIDGE & CO., Bombay and Madras.

A. J. COMBRIDGE & CO., Madras.

THACKER & CO., LD., Bombay.

D. B. TARAPOREVALA, SONS & CO., Bombay.

RADHABAI ATMARAM SAGOON, Bombay.

SUNDER PANDURANG, 25, Kalkadevi Road, Bombay.

HIGGINBOTHAM & CO., Madras.

V. KALYANARAM IYER & CO., Madras.

G. A. NATESAN & CO., Madras.

S. MURTHY & CO., Madras.

THOMPSON & CO., Madras.

TEMPLE & CO., Madras.

RAI SAHIB M. GULAB SINGH & SONS, Laho

N. B. MATHUR, SUPERINTENDENT, NAZAIR KANUN H

SUPERINTENDENT, AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSIO

MANAGER, GENERAL BOOK DEPOT, Nagpu

A. M. & J. FERGUSON, Bookseller

BABU S. C. TALUQDAR, Proprietor, Students

CENTRAL PROVINCES

Scale 1 Inch = 80 Miles or $\frac{1}{5068800}$.

100 50 0 100

78° 82°

24° 20°

UNITED PROVINCES

BENGAL

CENTRAL INDIA AGENCY

HYDERABAD

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

MADRAS PRESIDENCY

BAY OF BENGAL

Lalitpur, Jehri, Goona, Bijáwar, Sohawal, Nagode, Rewah, Sironj, Narsinghgarh, Mehidpur, Shájahánpur, Ujain, Sangor, Dámoh, Katni, Jaitpur (ANGOHAR), Sunhat (KOREA), Lohardaga, Ranchi, BHOPAL, Fatehgabad, Dewás, Jubbulpore, Birsingpur, Sohagpur, Bisrámpur (SARGUJA), Jashpur, Hoshangabad, Narsinghpur, Dindori, INDORE, Mhow, Harsi, Morar, Mandla, Amarkantak, Mátin, Pachmarhi, Mortakka, Rábkob (UDAIPUR), Laingarh, Bengal Nagpur Ry., Makrai, Seoni, Bilaspur, Khandwa (NIMAR), Barákuar, Raigarh, Asirgarh, Multái, Bálaghát, Kawarda, Jharsuguda, Chikalda, Gawilgarh, Ramtek, Gondia, Sarangarh, Burhánpur, Narnála, Ellichpur, Kámptee, NAGPUR, Bhandára, Silihari, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Amraoti, Badnera, Wardha, Pauni, Nándgaon, Rajim, Sonpur, Angole, Khamgaon, Buldána, Akola, Hinganghát, Nawagarh, Mahánadi R., Asseerghur, Melkar, Básim, Teotmál, Warora, Kánker, Jalna, Máhur, Balharshah, Parlakot, Raigarh, Junagarh, Bondiasor, Omorkot, Kasipur, Singapur, Hingoli, Ahíri, Nánder, Bastar, Ganjám, Kandhár, Indur, Sironcha, Bhopalpatnam, Dantawara, Jagdalpur, Jeypore, Manjira R., Rársi, Kaulás, Yelgondal, Chintulnar, Parlakimedi, Parvatipuram, Chicacole, Kondakamberi, Calingapatam, Medak, Waranga, Damagadam, Vizianagaram, Sholápur, Bidar, Nizam's Ry., Yellandu, Waltair, Bolarum, Bhongir, Secunderabad, Dornakal, Gulbarga, HYDERABAD, Vizagapatam.

Reference.

Nimar..... 1

No 357 E., Under Secy to the Ch Commr., C. P.—Nov. 07—490.

Reg. No 2150 E., 08—490.

Reg. No. 1718 E., 09.—490.

Litho, S. I. O., Calcutta

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ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

FOR

THE YEAR 1908-09

INTRODUCTION.

THE main feature of the year was that it included the second half of the crop-failure of 1907-08, and the first half of the year of partial recovery which followed. The recovery was only partial because the crops were by no means of uniform excellence, high prices continued, and the absence of marriages removed the incentive to spend money on luxuries, even up to the extent to which the spending capacity of the people had recovered. It was therefore a year which presented few, if any, prosperous features, and the check to the onward flow of commercial progress was further accentuated by the short cotton crop, the diminution of coal consumption, and the fall in the price of manganese. Another prominent feature in the year was the political situation; in the southern or Marathi-speaking districts the influence of agitators had previously come into most undesirable prominence. Colleges and schools had been infected with hostility to authority, and certain overt acts of indiscipline had manifested themselves. The Administration therefore felt itself obliged to institute a campaign against seditious preaching and meeting; to adopt other measures against disobedient students and school-boys, and to make it clear to Government pensioners, Government servants, Honorary Magistrates, and members of local bodies, that the continuance of their pensions, service, and dignities were strictly incompatible with any participation by them in disloyal movements. The Vice-Chairman of the Amraoti Municipality, the President of the Chanda Municipality, and one or two other members of local bodies were summarily removed from office. On the night of the opening of the Central Provinces and Berar Exhibition at Nagpur the statue of the late Queen-Empress was desecrated, and in consequence of this outrage and of facts elicited by the enquiry into the origin of the crime the constitution and membership of societies suspected of disloyalty was probed and investigated by an officer on special duty. This investigation led to the collapse of certain so-called "National Schools," which were found to be nothing but institutions for the teaching of sedition to youthful minds, and the breaking up of some associations. A further blow was dealt to the party of disloyalty by the prohibition of the meeting of the extremist or disloyal section of the National Congress which was to have been held at Nagpur. An active policy of attack, in place of a purely passive attitude of vigilance, has had the salutary effect of encouraging all that large majority of persons who are anxious to pursue a path of peaceful progress, whether economical or political, and of discouraging that small minority of self-seekers and malcontents who under false pleas of patriotism,

and with the object of self-aggrandizement, are striving to pervert the youth of the country, with a total and callous disregard of the consequences attached to the excesses of their misguided dupes, or of the general tranquillity of the masses. Except for the measures necessitated by these two abnormal features, *i. e.*, depression in agriculture and trade and attempts at seditious ferment, the administration of the Province has pursued the even tenour of its way. The general course of administration during the year is described in the usual way in the succeeding paragraphs.

PART I

GENERAL SUMMARY

The Administration.

The Hon'ble Mr. R. H. CRADDOCK, C. S. I., I. C. S., held charge of the office of Chief Commissioner throughout the year.

Agricultural features of the year.

2. Climatic conditions were on the whole favourable and the area under crop increased. A considerable amount of current fallow was broken up owing to good rain at sowing time, and there would have been a large increase in the kharif area had not excessive rain in the early months of the monsoon prevented the sowing of much of the land prepared. The heavy rain not only restricted the area sown but did considerable damage to the crops on the ground, especially cotton. Rice, however, fared very well. The rabi area showed a large advance on last year's abnormally contracted sowings, and was not far below normal. The crops on the whole fared well and the all-round outturn approximated to the normal. The recovery from the disastrous season of 1907-08 was rapid: there was indeed a large decrease in agricultural stock owing to the circumstances of the preceding year, but as the prospects of the coming kharif harvest are excellent, there should be a complete return of prosperity.

Relations with Feudatory States.

3. The year was marked by continued progress in the Feudatory States, and the relations between the Chiefs and the officers of Government were all that could be desired. Prices were high at the beginning of the year, but little distress was felt, and when the new crops came into the market, conditions became easier. The rice crop was a good one, and though cotton and til suffered in several States, both kharif and rabi harvests were very fair. Public health was good on the whole, but small-pox, cholera and malarial fevers were prevalent in some States. Judicial administration was efficiently carried on, and crime was, as usual, light, though, owing to the high prices which prevailed during the greater part of the year, there was an increase in the number of petty offences. A growing interest was shown in Forest management, many important public works were completed, and education made a distinct advance. All the Chiefs showed a marked interest in the welfare of their States.

Condition of the people.

4. The circumstances of the year were far more favourable than those of 1907-08, and conduced to a return of prosperity among all classes. The agriculturists reaped very fair harvests: ample employment was available for labourers, and wages were high. There were scattered outbreaks of plague, small-pox, cholera and malarial fever, but the public health was on the whole good. The birth-rate, which was again the highest in India, was the highest recorded in the

Central Provinces for 26 years, and the death-rate fell considerably. Prices of food-grains remained high, though relief measures were continued, but during the early part of the year there was little serious distress. The heavy mortality among cattle due to the circumstances of the year preceding was the only serious setback: on the whole the people made a rapid recovery and show convincing signs of returning prosperity.

Realization of the revenue.

5. The land revenue demand increased slightly owing to revision of settlement in Mandla and Balaghat, and to the introduction of the revised assessment in Yeotmal taluq. Remissions and suspensions were granted on a liberal scale, and the net demand thus lowered was collected practically in its entirety. There was an increase in the number of coercive processes issued to recalcitrants in Nagpur and the Berar districts, but collection on the whole presented no difficulty.

Surveys.

6. 96 square miles were traversed by the Imperial Survey Department in Nimar and Bilaspur. No supplementary topographical survey was undertaken. A traverse survey party, under the supervision of an officer of the Imperial Survey Department, is now attached to the Settlement Department of the Provinces.

Settlements.

7. Settlement operations were in progress in Mandla, Raipur, Bilaspur, Jubbulpore and Nimar. A start was made in Damoh, but, owing to the crop-failure, settlement work had to be abandoned almost as soon as it began. The report of the special officer on the condition of the Melghat taluq (Amraoti) was received after the close of the year. Settlement operations were much hindered throughout the Province by the conditions of the year, which necessitated the employment of the staff on work in connection with the scarcity.

Land Records.

8. The Berar Land Record staff was assimilated to the Central Provinces staff in various ways. The maintenance and repair of traverse, survey and village boundary marks received much attention during the year, and some improvements in procedure were introduced. The importance of land records is every year becoming more adequately recognised by officers of all classes, but some of them still fail to realise their responsibility in the matter. Land records in Berar received particular attention during the year. The work of the patwaris was good on the whole and their discipline improved, though many incompetent patwaris are retained owing to the difficulty of securing efficient substitutes: the work of the superior staff showed a steady advance.

Waste lands.

9. About one-sixth of the available waste lands in the Ryotwari villages of the Central Provinces were allotted during the year. Allotments exceeded relinquishments in nearly all districts. In Berar nearly 9,000 acres are now to be thrown open to cultivation in completion of a scheme of re-classification which has been long in progress.

Court of Wards.

10. The year was a trying one for the Court of Wards, as the agricultural circumstances caused an increase of expenditure and a diminution of income. However, the Court came through the ordeal satisfactorily. A large part of the rental demand was collected, and the Court was able, besides meeting its ordinary expenses, to appropriate a substantial amount for the relief of distress. Moreover, a distinct advance was made in the repayment of debt and substantial sums were spent in improvements. The relations between the Court and its wards continued to be satisfactory.

Revenue and rent-paying classes.

11. The monsoon conditions of 1907 were unfavourable to all crops and produced widespread hardship among the agricultural classes. The people showed, however, great powers of resistance, and the effects of scarcity soon began to pass away. In particular the trifling nature of the relief measures required in Berar afforded a striking proof of the prosperity of the cultivators in that division. It is again possible to record a distinct appreciation of the value of improved methods of agriculture and of the benefits of irrigation. The co-operative credit movement, despite the unfavourable circumstances of the year, received no check. The relations between landlords and tenants were cordial, sympathetic treatment of tenants by their landlords being a noticeable feature of the period of distress.

Police.

12. There was a large and general increase of crime as was to be expected in a year of scarcity. Failure of crops and consequent high prices were answerable for many offences against person and property, and the high rate of wages prevailing attracted aliens who were not overscrupulous. The number of murders increased considerably, and dacoities were very prevalent. However, the main gangs were, it is believed, broken up. The net loss of property in all kinds of offences shows a large increase over the figures of the previous year. However, detective and investigation work continued to give encouraging signs of improvement.

Further progress was made in the introduction of reforms recommended by the Police Commission. The gradual substitution of station-houses for out-posts continued, and the temporary disorganisation inseparable from a change of system was much smaller than might have been expected. A Railway Police district embracing most of the sections of railway lying within the Central Provinces was constituted with satisfactory results. The punishments inflicted on Head Constables and Constables show a very large decrease from last year, but those inflicted on officers rose in number. Difficulty in recruiting and in enforcing discipline were experienced as usual in the Mahratta districts; but during the year resignations were somewhat less frequent and recruiting somewhat brisker in these districts than previously.

Criminal Justice.

13. The strength of the magistracy was again augmented, mainly by the appointment of Honorary Magistrates. The number of cases disposed of rose slightly, and their duration increased considerably, a result for which heavy executive work entailed by the scarcity was largely answerable. Another cause of increased duration was the delay caused by the necessity for awaiting proof of previous convictions. There was a general increase in appellate work: the proportion of cases in which the sentence of the Lower Court was upheld remained unchanged. Sessions work increased largely in Berar owing to the bringing to trial of several criminal gangs. The amount of fines rose, but practically the whole sum was realised. A satisfactory feature of the returns was the considerable increase in the number of persons released on probation of good conduct.

Prisons.

14. It was remarked in last year's report that the constant fall noticeable in recent years in the number of prisoners confined in jail synchronised with a period in which the prosperity of all classes had increased rapidly. The adverse circumstances of the year under report were reflected in an increase in the jail population. The conviction of several wandering gangs of criminals contributed to the increase. There was a further reduction in the average cost

of maintenance of prisoners, but cash earnings decreased, largely because prisoners were frequently employed on unremunerative work. Discipline was well maintained, but there were no less than 20 escapes. Several of the escaped prisoners were, however, recaptured. The number of offences committed and of punishments inflicted rose, but the incidence of punishments per head was less than it was last year. The health of the prisoners was not so good as in the previous year, owing, it is said, to the poor state of health in which many of the prisoners were found on admission. Emphasis was laid on the importance of avoiding short sentences in view of the demoralising effect of jail life, and the evil influence exercised by habitual offenders and by such of the casuals as are bad characters.

Civil Justice.

15. There was a general increase in litigation during the year, chiefly in suits for money and movable property. Probably creditors took advantage of the high prices of food-grains to bring suits for the repayment of loans which had been given in grain. The pending file increased, but the number of long-pending suits was considerably reduced, especially in Berar. Appellate work was again heavy. Some reforms were introduced improving the position of Munsiffs, and the ministerial staff was strengthened. The scheme of making the Criminal Sessions Division and the Civil District identical has not yet been brought to completion, and partly for this reason and partly owing to lack of funds, it has not yet been possible to work up to the numerous requirements of the Department in the matter of accommodation.

Registration.

16. The number of registrations, both compulsory and optional, affecting immovable property increased. The increase was due in part to the circumstances of the year, which, besides being a period of high prices, was the year preceding the *Singhast* year, and therefore a year in which marriages were particularly frequent. Moreover, the popularity of registration grows with the general development of the country, since the increase in the number of registrations is maintained, though not at so great a rate, when seasons are good. The extension of the Transfer of Property Act to Berar contributed to the increase in that Division. The number of wills and adoptions showed a decrease from the abnormally high figure of the preceding year. Registrations of sales of immovable property, though increasing in number, were not very numerous, considering the conditions of the year.

Municipal Administration.

17. The number of Municipalities in the Central Provinces and Berar remained the same, *viz.*, 57. Income increased by Rs. 81,994, while expenditure decreased by Rs. 73,548, but was in excess of income, the excess being met from opening balances. Work has begun on the Gorewara Reservoir, for the supply of water to the town and Civil Station, Nagpur. An extensive sewerage scheme has been prepared for the drainage of the city of Nagpur by Mr. Lane-Brown. The financial position of the borrowing Municipalities is sound. The relation of members with the local officials has been generally satisfactory. The interest shown by members in their civic duties is increasing, and in the larger towns a considerable number of public-spirited gentlemen have shown themselves ready to devote their time to the service of the community.

District Councils and Local Boards.

18. All the District Councils and almost all the Local Boards held at least the prescribed number of meetings, and in the matter of attendance there has been a perceptible improvement. It is probable that this improvement is due to the

enhanced powers now entrusted to Local Boards. Income decreased by Rs. 84,000, owing to the general decline of pound income in the Central Provinces and of the receipts from village service cess and bazar cess in Berar. Expenditure rose from 25 to 30 lakhs of rupees. Closing balances were substantial. The year has been one of steady progress, and unusual energy has been displayed in extending education and carrying out works of public utility. A large number of members has given abundant proof of their interest in their work by the ungrudging manner in which they have devoted their time and their energies to local affairs. The progress achieved in the past few years has been very marked, but much remains to be done; and there is no reason why the powers and responsibilities of the Councils and Boards should not be further increased if the members prove by their public spirit that they are worthy of discharging their trust.

The Agricultural Department.

19. Difficulties were again experienced from inadequacy of staff and of accommodation. The superior staff is now complete, but the subordinate service has not yet reached its full sanctioned strength. The development of the Agricultural College should remove this defect. The College made good progress during the year, and the results of the examinations were satisfactory. The most disappointing feature has, from the beginning, been the malguzari class, and a scheme for substituting short courses at various local centres for the present system is under consideration. The season was not very favourable to experimental cultivation, but much useful work was done. Experiments in the various kinds of cotton were continued at Akola. In a year of heavy rainfall the superiority of the *buri* variety over the ordinary *jari* and even over the long-stapled *malvensis* was apparent. The demonstration of the advantages of transplantation of rice was continued at the Labandih Farm, and the experiments in jute cultivation below tanks at Nagpur again gave good results. The wheat experiments at Powarkhera have given only negative results hitherto, but considerable time is always required before a positive conclusion can be drawn from experiments in wheat cultivation. The cotton-seed farms have now created a demand for good seed. No financial assistance will be given to these farms in future: the growers will dispose of their own stocks to customers. Steady progress was made in research work in spite of lack of accommodation. Sales of improved implements continued. The Department published various leaflets, and the circulation of the *Agricultural Gazette* increased considerably. A valuable demonstration of the results achieved and the objects aimed at by the Department was provided in the Agricultural Section of the Nagpur Exhibition.

The provincialisation of the Veterinary Department came into force only in the last month of the year, so the effects of the measure are not yet apparent. One result will be, it is hoped, that candidates of a proper stamp will be more easily attracted to the Department. Rinderpest was far less prevalent than in the preceding year, and hence the number of inoculations decreased. It is believed, however, that the people are beginning to recognise the advantage of the operation. There was a general increase in the number of animals treated at dispensaries. Proposals involving a further course of training for salutris were sanctioned during the year.

Co-operative Credit Societies.

20. The season was favourable for the spread of the co-operative movement and good progress was made. The number of societies increased by 20, membership rose by more than 1,700 and working capital by over Rs. 40,000. The

amount of working capital per member in rural societies decreased, however, to an amount insufficient to finance the needs of members for productive purposes, as several societies largely increased their membership, without appreciable increase of capital. Collections of outstanding loans were satisfactory: the difficulties of the weavers at Burhanpur were, however, sufficient to attract attention. A noticeable feature of the year was the success of the Sihora central bank in getting into touch with the Allahabad and Bhargava banks. There was distinct evidence of a general growth of interest in the co-operative movement.

Weather and crops.

21. The early monsoon months, especially August, were marked by heavy and continuous rain, while the later rains were deficient, but on the whole the conditions were favourable to the kharif crop and the area sown increased. Rice and *tur* both fared very well, but cotton, *juar* and *til*, though doing far better than in the previous year, suffered from the heavy rains of the early monsoon. *Kodon* and *kutki*, the chief food of the aboriginal castes, gave very fair outturns. Conditions were favourable for rabi sowings, and the area, though somewhat restricted in the south and east of the Province by lack of late rain, showed a large increase (24 per cent) over the abnormally contracted sowings of the previous year. It was, however, still below the figure for 1906-07. Climatic conditions were fairly favourable to the spring crops. The winter showers, though scanty, were very beneficial, but frost, cloudy weather and hail caused damage in places. The outturns of the principal spring crops, wheat, gram and linseed, nearly approached the normal and were considerably superior to those of last year. The all-round provincial outturn of the principal *kharif* and *rabi* crops was estimated at 84 per cent of the normal, that is, well over 50 per cent more than last year's outturn and not far short of that of 1906-07.

Forests:

22. The total area of the State forests at the end of the year was 21,921 square miles, a decrease of 81 square miles, due almost entirely to disforestment for the extension of agriculture, having occurred during the year. The outlay on demarcation amounted to Rs. 21,270 of which 80 per cent was devoted to the maintenance of boundary marks. Definite working plans were sanctioned for areas aggregating 960 square miles and prepared for 1,293 square miles of forests more, while others are in progress. The total outlay of the year on roads, buildings, tanks and wells was a little over $2\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs; 250 miles of new roads were made at a cost of about Rs. 61,000; this is much above the average. The number of forest offences reported during the year was 8,222, an increase of 20 per cent above the record of 1907-08. Great success attended the fire-conservancy measures of the year; fire was successfully excluded from 99·2 per cent of the total area under protection at an average cost of 3 pies per acre. Increased attention was paid to sylvicultural operations. The outturn of forest produce was much less than that of the preceding year, chiefly because the liberal concessions made during the scarcity of 1907-08 raised the outturn of that year much above the normal. The demand in 1908-09 was also below the normal because the year was *Singhast*. The lac industry again proved unprofitable in Raipur and disappointing everywhere; there was a large fall in the market value of lac. Useful work continued to be done in the Balaghat Forest School, and an enlargement of the school is under contemplation. The gross forest revenue for the province in 1908-09 was Rs. 21,01,108. This is 4 per cent less than that of 1907-08; but making allowance for the effect of the *Singhast* year the financial result of the year's work is not unsatisfactory.

Mines and quarries.

23. The opening of three new coal mines in Chhindwara and extended working at Ballarpur caused a large increase in the output of coal, the value increasing by over four lakhs. The manganese industry on the other hand suffered considerably from the low prices prevailing in the European market. Several mines were closed during the year under report, these being either mines at a distance from the railway or small ventures conducted unscientifically without much capital or expert advice. The stress of low prices on the whole rather consolidated than impeded the manganese industry. The number of limestone quarries increased and new mines were opened for bauxite and soapstone. The health of the employés was good and there were no epidemics. There were, however, 26 serious accidents, six involving loss of life. There were no prosecutions under the Mines Act, but one manager was prosecuted un er Section 304-A, Indian Penal Code ; he was, however, discharged by the Magistrate. The limestone quarries at Murwara and the Mohpani Colliery served a useful purpose in giving employment to casual labourers in a year of high prices, but mines in other parts found a difficulty in maintaining their labour supply and had in some cases even to import labour. The number of prospecting licenses and mining leases granted was nearly double that granted in the previous year: and though many applications were made on insufficient data and turned out infructuous, yet the large increase is evidence of continually growing commercial activity.

Manufactures.

24. Though several new factories were brought on the register, the poorness of the cotton crop prevented any rise in the number working. Owners in some localities combined to restrict working to so many of their factories only as would be to their material benefit. However, there was a rise in the number of operatives employed. The health of the employés was good, but the number of accidents increased considerably, the cause of accident being in almost all cases carelessness on the part of the operatives. The rate of wages, both for skilled and unskilled workmen, remained practically unaltered.

Prices and Trade.

25. The drought of 1907 caused some shrinkage in the cropped area, and the prices of food-grains, which were already high, rose higher during 1908. Later in the year, owing to more favourable climatic conditions, prices fell somewhat, the fall being most marked in the case of rice and gram. The conditions of the year were on the whole unfavourable to trade. Imports fell by 217,000 maunds in weight and 43 lakhs in value. The decrease is principally under the heads coal and coke, metals and railway plant and rolling-stock due to the larger output of coal from local collieries, and the completion of railway extensions. To a less extent there was a fall in the imports of wood, manufactured cotton-goods, spices and sugar. The export trade in food-grains, which is dependent on the crops of the year, shows a falling-off to the extent of 61 per cent. The decrease in exports under the head of metals, is due to a fall in the price of manganese, which made it impossible for the mine owners to put ore on the market at a profit. The large increase in the export of hides and skins, is the result of the severe mortality among cattle on account of the heavy and continuous rains during the latter part of the year. Other minor commodities show slight increased exports, but on the whole, the total volume of trade fell by 6 million maunds and the value by $3\frac{1}{4}$ crores of rupees.

Public Works.

26. The total expenditure in the Public Works Department rose from 59 to 66 lakhs. More than half the outlay was on communications, and the dominant feature of the year's operations was the provision of employment on a large scale, especially in the Nerbudda, Jubbulpore and Chhattisgarh

Divisions, by the expansion of road works on the ordinary contract system. During the scarcity period a sum of 18½ lakhs was spent on these works, and it is estimated that fully two-thirds of this sum is a solid contribution to the Public Works programme of the next few years. A large sum was spent on buildings, a considerable amount of work being done on behalf of the Civil Judiciary and the Police Department, and on school buildings and hostels, while a number of bonded warehouses were built for the Excise Department. Work on the new Secretariat and other Government offices and residences was pushed on with vigour. A considerable sum was spent on arboriculture and many additions and alterations were made to the buildings of the Experimental Farms.

Irrigation.

27. Though the monsoon was far more favourable to the cultivators than that of the previous year, the decline in the area irrigated was not great: a fact which shows that the cultivators are beginning to realise that irrigation pays even in normal years. A crop rate of Rs. 2 per acre for water on demand has now been established and is paid freely in most parts of the Province. Work on the Ramtek Reservoir in Nagpur was pushed on rapidly, and the nine protective works in the Mahanadi Irrigation Division were completed. Almost all the protective irrigation works are now capable of providing irrigation. Good progress was made with minor irrigation works.

Central Provinces and Berar Exhibition.

28. An Exhibition was held at Nagpur lasting from the middle of November 1908 till the middle of January 1909. It was divided into sections dealing with Agriculture, Textile Fabrics, Wood and Metal Work, Forest and Education: there was also a Ladies' Section and a Miscellaneous Section. In the Agricultural Section cultivators were enabled to see improved machines in operation and superior methods of agricultural working, while the Industrial Section introduced the general public to makers of a variety of articles all over India. The Ladies' Section was not without effect in stimulating the efforts that are being made to widen the interests in life of Indian women. Besides its practical utility, the Exhibition was interesting as an indication of the state of development at which the Provinces have arrived.

Revenue and Finance.

29. The gross Imperial and Provincial revenue of the year amounted to 316·61 lakhs, or 2⅓ lakhs more than that of the previous year. The principal heads of revenue under which there were increases were Land Revenue and Stamps. The increase under the former was due to the collection of a large amount of suspended land revenue, while that under the latter was due to an increase in debt transactions, another result of the scarcity. The income from irrigation is rising with the number of irrigation works which are being completed, and may be expected to hold a prominent place among the resources of the Provinces, when the large schemes now sanctioned are in full working order. The revenue from Excise shows a large decrease owing partly to scarcity, but in a great degree to the fact that the year was *Singhast* and consequently marriages among Hindus were prohibited. A Temperance movement, which made itself felt in some districts of the Province, also contributed to a fall under this head. Forest revenue declined by more than a lakh, as there was a falling-off in the demand for timber, and a heavy crop of *karbi* (*juari* stalks) lessened the demand for grass: moreover, timber operations ceased owing to increased sale of standing coupes. Grant of permission to extract minor produce free of charge and remissions of forest revenue contributed to the decline. Expenditure under gross Imperial and Provincial revenues increased from 279 to 318 lakhs. The increase was mainly due to relief operations, which involved the granting of loans, the

payment of grain compensation, and an extended programme of buildings, roads and relief works. This expenditure, however, apart from the relief given, left behind it a not unremunerative equivalent in solid and useful work done. Another cause of increased expenditure was the revision of establishment in several departments (the organization of the Financial Commissionership, the revision of the cadre of Executive Extra-Assistant Commissioners, Naib-Tahsildars and Revenue peons, and of Munsiffs and the process-serving establishment; and changes in the establishment of the Police Force and of the Educational and Agricultural Departments). Extra expenses involved by acting arrangements among officers and the grant of travelling allowances to peons also were answerable for a large increase in expenditure. The only decrease was in Civil Works—Civil, and was due to a diminution in the grants paid to District Councils. As was expected, the inroads made upon the Provincial balance were considerable. The effect of the crop-failure of 1907-08 was not only shown in those departments naturally affected, but the necessity for the grant of grain compensation allowance in all Departments made the influence of the scarcity felt throughout the Administration. The estimated cost of the crop-failure to the Province in loss of revenue and increased expenditure is 40 lakhs.

Vital statistics.

30. The birth-rate (52·84 *per mille*) was the highest recorded for 26 years, and was higher than that in any other Province. The death-rate, in spite of the prevailing scarcity, fell to 38·12 *per mille*. The year was comparatively free from epidemic disease. Plague was mainly confined to the Berar Division. Cholera was not destructive except in Chhattisgarh Division and the Nagpur district, but small-pox was prevalent, especially in Chhattisgarh, and the northern districts shared to some extent in the visitation of malarial fever from which all Northern India suffered in September and October. There are signs that prejudice against plague preventive measures is breaking down. Evacuation was freely undertaken: inoculation was welcomed and practised by private practitioners as well as by officers of Government: and there was some co-operation in the work of rat-destruction. The reporting of births and deaths still leaves something to be desired: the statements of cause of death are not very trustworthy, but accuracy here is hardly to be expected from the agency available.

Emigration.

31. The continuance of high prices during the first part of the year caused recruiting to be brisk, especially in Jubbulpore, which supplied considerably more than half the number of emigrants. In Chhattisgarh, where agricultural conditions were better, emigration decreased. The total number of labourers recruited was slightly less than last year. The health of the emigrants was good, and irregularities in recruitment were again few.

Medical Relief.

32. The total number of dispensaries remained unchanged, but the number of private dispensaries rose. The total number of patients treated increased by over 30,000. The income of the year was nearly a lakh more than last year's income: contributions from natives showed a considerable increase. There has been a tendency to an increase in the number of inmates of Lunatic Asylums during the last few years, mainly because in years of high prices poor families find it difficult to support the burden of insane relatives: possibly too the distrust of asylums is weakening. The cost of maintaining the inmates was high, diet charges increasing owing to the high prices of food-grains. The Jubbulpore Asylum is shortly to be abolished and the inmates transferred to Nagpur.

Sanitation.

33. The chief works in progress during the year were the Jubbulpore Water-works extension and the increasing of the catchment area of the Kalapani tank at Amraoti. Work was begun also on the Gorewara tank at Nagpur. The Government of India made a grant of two lakhs towards a scheme of urban sanitation, but the intimation of the grant was received too late for the whole amount to be spent within the year, as it was considered inadvisable to make grants for drainage schemes which had not been examined and passed by experts. A large number of petty works were carried out by the various Municipalities. Much useful work was done in villages in connection with the improvement of water-supply, conservancy, roads, and cleaning of village sites. The reconstitution of the Sanitary Board is under consideration.

Vaccination.

34. The total number of vaccinations performed and the average number effected by each operator alike increased. Nearly 92 per cent of the children under one year of age available for vaccination in the Municipal towns were successfully vaccinated. Glycerinated lymph is almost always employed. The percentage of success in primary vaccination was 99 and that in revaccination 75. The estimate of the success in revaccination depends very much on the interval that has elapsed between the revaccination and the inspection. It may safely be said that the quality of the work done by the Vaccination Department has steadily improved in the past four working seasons.

Education.

35. Education made good progress during the year. There was a widespread demand for the opening of new schools, but the improvement of existing schools in staff, accommodation and equipment is the most urgent matter for consideration. Increased attention to physical training, extended interest in education among Muhammadans, and a very large rise in the number of scholars of low castes and backward communities were the chief features of the year. Discipline improved and the political atmosphere both in Colleges and Schools was rendered clearer than in the preceding year. The results of all collegiate examinations were satisfactory. The difficulty of creating a supply of trained teachers sufficient to meet the demand continued to be felt, but a scheme for improving the quantity and quality of such teachers was formulated. Various measures were taken for the encouragement of technical and industrial education in the Provinces. Female education progressed steadily, if slowly, but lack of funds and the paucity of qualified female teachers continued to be a barrier to the establishment of new schools, for which there is a growing demand. There are many difficulties in the way of rapid advance, but the year was one of steady progress. There is an increasing recognition of the value of education among all classes, and the task of satisfying this demand will be for some years to come one of the most difficult as well as one of the most absorbing tasks of the Administration.

PART II

CHAPTER I

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

At pages 1 to 52 of the Report on the administration of the Central Provinces for 1901-02 and at pages 1 to 25 of the Report on the administration of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts for the same year will be found an account of the following subjects drawn up for standard reference Certain portions of the information given are rendered obsolete owing to the transfer of the major portion of the Sambalpur district and the Feudatory States of Patna, Sonpur, Rehrakhol, Kalahandi and Bamra from the Central Provinces to Lower Bengal and the transfer of the Chota Nagpur States—Sirguja, Udaipur, Jashpur, Korea and Changbhakar—from Lower Bengal to the Central Provinces with effect from the 16th October 1905, and by the division of the Raipur, Bilaspur and remainder of the Sambalpur district into three districts on the formation of the Drug district on 1st January 1906. Other changes have been the reduction of the six districts of Berar to four with effect from the 1st September 1905, and the transfer of the Zamindaris of Ambagarh-Chauki, Panabaras, Aundhi and Koracha from the Chanda to the Drug district on the 1st October 1907.

1—PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY, AREA, CLIMATE, &c.

2—HISTORICAL SUMMARY

3—FORM OF ADMINISTRATION

[For an account of the "Form of Administration" in Berar, see paragraph 2 of Part II of the Administration Report of the Central Provinces for 1903-04.]

4—CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES

5—SYSTEM OF SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT

6—CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY

7—DETAILS OF THE LAST CENSUS—TRIBES AND LANGUAGES

8—THE ADMINISTRATION

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION

2. The Hon'ble Mr. R. H. CRADDOCK, C. S. I., I. C. S., held charge of the office of Chief Commissioner throughout the year.

RELATIONS WITH THE FEUDATORY STATES

9—RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES

[Report on the Administration of the Feudatory States of the Central Provinces for the year 1908.]

Changes in the Administration.

3. The Feudatory Chiefs of Bastar and Kawardha assumed the administration of their States during the year, the Chief of Kawardha being installed at a special Durbar held by the Chief Commissioner at Nagpur. The Khairagarh State was taken under Government management owing to the death of the Chief. Thus at the close of the year ten States were under their own Chiefs and five under management.

RELATIONS WITH THE FEUDATORY STATES

Rainfall and Crops.

4. The monsoon of 1908 was on the whole favourable and the agricultural conditions normal, though deficiency of rainfall in some States and excess in others caused a certain amount of damage to cotton and til. However, cotton in Udaipur and til in Nandgaon fared very well. Rice gave a good crop in all the States.

Trade and Prices.

5. The export trade was brisk in most States as was the case last year, but the Jashpur Chief was induced by failure of crops to prohibit the export of food-grains. Owing to the inferiority of the cotton crop the ginning factory in the Kawardha State found difficulty in securing enough cotton to provide it with work. The Bengal-Nagpur Cotton Mills and Ginning Factory continued to work during the year, but the production of yarn was the smallest recorded during the past 5 years.

Condition of the people.

6. The year was one of average prosperity. Prices of food-grains were rather high throughout the year, but became slightly easier when the new crops were brought into the market. Cattle disease, small-pox and cholera were prevalent in most of the States. The death and birth-rates were normal.

Finance.

7. Financially the condition of the States was satisfactory. Some States incurred heavy expenses in connection with the marriages of relatives of the Chiefs, but on the whole the Chiefs do not show any inclination towards a too lavish personal expenditure.

Land Revenue.

8. One of the most satisfactory features of the year was the ease with which the land revenue demand was realized in most States and the insignificant number of cases in which resort to any form of coercive process was necessary. In some States, however, a large demand remained to be realized, the outstandings being attributed to the failure of crops in 1907, and large remissions were granted by some of the Chiefs.

Settlement.

9. In the Chhuikhadan State revision of settlement was begun in November 1908. Revised assessment proposals were sanctioned for the Nandgaon State and for six selected villages in the Udaipur State as an experimental measure. There were no complaints against settlement in any States.

Crime, Law and Justice.

10. Owing to the high prices that prevailed crime was not so light as last year, but few of the offences were of a serious nature. Punishments were appropriate, but fines were numerous owing to the large number of petty cases dealt with. On the whole, the administration of justice, both criminal and civil, was carried out with care and expedition.

Jails.

11. The number of prisoners in Jail did not vary from last year's figure to any marked extent. The Jail administration in all States was well conducted, and the health of the prisoners was good. There were, however, a few cases of cholera and small-pox in the Bastar and Sirguja Jails. During the year the Kanker State sent a prisoner to the Raipur Central Jail to learn weaving. A fly-shuttle handloom was supplied to the Sarangarh Jail and prisoners were trained in its use. Weaving of various kinds and oil-pressing are the two principal forms of labour imposed.

Forests.

12. The income from forests was chiefly derived from the sale of timber, lac and harra produce. The Feudatory Chief of Sirguja has applied for the services of a couple of Forest Darogas to improve the system of management of the forests, and the Raigarh Chief sent one of his officials to the Balaghat Forest School.

Excise.

13. Excise income increased chiefly under the head of license fees for the sale of country liquor, opium and ganja. The consumption of liquor is, however, reported to have been normal.

Education.

14. There was an increase in both the number of schools opened and the number of pupils who attended them. A start was made in female education in the Korea State.

RELATIONS WITH THE FEUDATORY STATES

Rajkumar College.

15. The Rajkumar College in Raipur has made satisfactory progress during the year. The health of the boys has been well maintained and their conduct except in one instance, with regard to which disciplinary action was taken, has been very good. Proposals aiming at the recognition by the Allahabad University of the Final Examination of the College were under consideration.

Public Works Department.

16. The States Public Works remained under the supervision of the Executive Engineer, Chhattisgarh States Division. Since the close of the year, however, his connection with the Bastar State, in which many important works were completed during the year, has ceased. There are now only five States which will continue to avail themselves of his services.

Berar.

17. There are no Feudatory States in Berar.

10—CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE

The season.

18. The effects of the crop-failure of 1907-08 continued to be felt during the first part of the year under report, and relief-works could not be closed till the end of September 1908. Relief was given by an extension of ordinary works and by liberal grants of agricultural and land improvement loans: where the work thus provided was insufficient to take the place of such reduction of agricultural employment as was caused by the crop-failure a limited number of village works under the Famine Code was opened. The provision of work was supplemented by gratuitous relief to incapables of all kinds. The largest number of persons on relief at any one time was 51,161 in August. By the end of October 1908 the only persons being relieved were the weavers, whose straitened position, intensified by the *Singhast* year, necessitated the continuance of relief to them till prices eased. The conditions of 1908-09 were far more favourable to the agricultural classes than those of 1907-08. The first months of the monsoon were favourable to the crops, and, though heavy and continuous rain in August caused rather serious damage to cotton and juar, the rice crop was generally good and the kharif harvest as a whole was fair. The occupied area expanded slightly by one per cent) and good rains at sowing time induced cultivators to break up for cultivation a large area under current fallow, thus causing a considerable extension of the cropped area. The all-round outturn for the province (91 per cent) compares very favourably with the yield of the previous year. The spring sowings were within measurable distance of normal and largely exceeded the abnormally contracted sowings of the preceding year. The outturns all-round were very fair. The only serious setback was a large decrease in agricultural stock, an inevitable result of the scarcity. Public health was very fair, there being an absence of epidemic disease, though plague, cholera, small-pox and malarial fevers were prevalent in parts of the provinces. There was some increase in crime, as was to be anticipated in a year of high prices. Liberal suspensions and remissions of revenue payable from the crops of the preceding year were granted and the balance was collected without any difficulty. In fact, the year was one of returning prosperity, and the excellent kharif crops anticipated in the current year should ensure that the recovery is speedy and thorough.

CHAPTER II

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND

REALIZATION OF REVENUE

1—REALIZATION OF REVENUE

[Resolution on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces for the year ending 30th September 1908 and of Berar for the year 1907-08.]

The Central Provinces.

19 The ordinary land revenue demand on the roll in the districts of the Central Provinces showed a net increase of Rs. 12,233, of which a sum of Rs. 10,405 is due to changes consequent on revision of assessment in the Mandla and Balaghat districts. The total Malguzari demand stood at Rs. 84,92,464 at the end of the year and there was an outstanding demand of Rs. 25,338, mostly due to suspended arrears in Bilaspur and Drug. The failure of crops was accompanied by the grant of remissions and suspensions on a liberal scale, amounting to over 20¾ lakhs, and the net demand for collection was consequently lowered to Rs. 64,02,665, of which Rs. 64,00,832 (99·97 per cent) were collected. The collections of revenue thus presented no difficulty and were in the circumstances of the year satisfactory. The demand on account of miscellaneous land revenue has continued to expand; a sharp rise in the receipts from royalty on manganese ore contributed to the increase.

Berar.

20. In Berar the total demand, including cesses, was Rs. 89,15,436, or Rs. 54,984 more than in the previous year. The increase was mainly due to the introduction of the revised assessment in the Yeotmal taluq, and to the expiry in the Yeotmal district of the leases of 42 villages granted under the Waste Land Rules. Small increases resulted also from the allotment of unoccupied lands and from the resumption of certain *inam* holdings. Of this demand 99·3 per cent was collected, ·6 was suspended and the balance of ·1 was recoverable.

Coercive processes.

21. There was a small increase in the number of coercive processes used in the realization of revenue. This is almost entirely traceable to the district of Nagpur, where it is reported that a tendency to inexcusable slackness in payment is habitual. The Jubbulpore Division showed a marked decline under all heads of "Coercion," and in the whole Province there were only 106 arrests, no imprisonments and only 13 sales of attached property actually carried out. These facts, combined with the statistics of rent collections, afford ample proof that there was no undue harshness in collection and that the revenue concessions granted were sufficient.

22. In Berar there was a substantial increase in the number of processes issued. This increase is easily accounted for by the abnormal conditions of the year and the recollections in the minds of the ryots of past leniency under similar conditions. As in Nagpur, large numbers of those well able to pay hung back. However, the revenue was eventually collected without a single field being brought to sale.

Government loans, Central Provinces.

23. The Government Loan Account (principal) is shown in thousands of rupees in the following statement. The figures are for the financial year ending the 31st March 1909:—

	Under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.		Under the Land Improvement Loans Act.	
	With interest.	Without interest.	With interest.	Without interest.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Outstanding at the commencement of the year, *i. e.*, on the 1st April 1908.	3,57	11	16,85	...
Remitted during the year 1908-09 ...	1	...	4	...
Collected do. ...	14,06	8	1,72	...
Advanced do. ...	25,32	...	5,82	...
Outstanding at the close of the year, *i. e.*, on the 31st March 1909.	14,82	3	20,91	...

The very large extension of takavi business during the year was necessitated by the apprehension of scarcity consequent on the failure of the kharif harvest of 1907 and the short rabi harvest of 1908. The bulk of the money was borrowed under the Agriculturists' Loans Act for the purchase of seed-grain, but large sums were also advanced for the purchase of cattle of which the mortality had been very heavy during the scarcity period, especially in the north of the Provinces. The largest shares of the advances were allotted to the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions. Under the Land Improvement Loans Act, the total distribution amounted to nearly 6 lakhs and the loans had the desired effect of supplementing the employment afforded by works on ordinary programmes. The Damoh district, which suffered more severely from crop-failure than any other, was given the largest share of loans under this Act, but in Betul, Mandla and Jubbulpore also the amount allotted was high. The reports bear full testimony to the fact that these loans were properly spent and were of great help in providing employment in the affected tracts at a most trying period.

24. In Berar just over 2 lakhs were distributed under the Land Improvement Loans Act and about Rs. 25,000 under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, sums largely in excess of those usually advanced. The reason of the excess is to be found in the abnormal circumstances of the year. There has been a marked improvement in the rapidity of distribution of the money advanced.

2—SURVEYS

SURVEYS

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1908]

25. During the field season of 1907-08 the traverse survey of 96 square miles was performed by the Imperial Survey Department in the Nimar and Bilaspur districts. No supplementary topographical survey was undertaken. Since the close of the year arrangements have been made to attach to the Settlement Department of these Provinces a small Traverse Survey Party to carry out the traverse work under the supervision of an officer of the Imperial Survey Department.

3—SETTLEMENT

SETTLEMENT

[Reports on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1908, and in Berar during the year ending the 31st May 1908.]

26. Owing to the early cessation of the monsoon and the consequent failure of crops settlement work was considerably hampered throughout the year. In Damoh, settlement work had to be stopped almost immediately it began, and in other districts progress was much hindered owing to the employment of the Settlement staff on enquiries regarding the failure of crops, remissions and suspensions of land revenue, and the grant of *takavi* loans. Proposals for the inception of settlement operations in the Wardha district were submitted for the orders of the Government of India, very shortly after the close of the year. During the year the statistics of that portion of the Drug district which was last settled by Mr. Blenkinsop in 1901 were examined and the conditions of the Narsinghpur and Chhindwara districts investigated with a view to deciding whether the settlement should be revised or its term extended. A report showing the result of the enquiry into the condition of the Pusad taluq in Yeotmal was submitted, and orders were received from the Government of India deferring the introduction of the revised rates until the revenue year 1909-10. The preliminary report of the special officer on the condition of the Melghat taluq in Amraoti was received after the close of the year.

Mandla.—The balance of the attestation work left over from last year was completed during the year under report. During the Settlement Officer's absence owing to ill-health the Senior Assistant Settlement Officer inspected 266 villages. Announcement was completed in 424 villages, but owing to the failure of crops the revised assessments were brought into force with effect from the 1st July 1908 instead of 1st July 1907. Rent-rate reports for 332 villages of the Dindori tahsil and the assessment proposals for 542 villages of the Mandla

and Dindori tahsils were submitted: orders were passed on one of the rent-rate and four of the assessment reports. Sanction was accorded to the wajib-ul-arz and to the proposals for the re-settlement of 14 "block" or leased villages. The enquiries into the long outstanding cases of discrepant forest boundaries of the Mandla tahsil were completed and a report submitted. Proposals for the re-assessment of the 106 ryotwari villages of the Mandla tahsil were sanctioned. The expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 53,297.

Raipur.—The heavy arrears of office work and the unhealthiness of the tract, combined with the number of khasra entries dealt with and the frequent calls made on the Settlement staff for work in connection with famine relief, told upon the progress of operations. Nevertheless, the Revenue Inspectors inspected 765 villages; the Assistant Settlement Officers 725 and the Settlement Officer 568. The attestation of almost the whole of the new Raipur district was completed. Owing to the failure of crops no announcement was done during the year, and the revised assessments, which had previously been announced in two groups of the Dhamtari tahsil from the 1st July 1907, were ordered to take effect from the 1st July 1908 The total expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 87,556

Bilaspur (*Khalsa*).—Work suffered seriously owing to a variety of causes, chief among which are the death of an Assistant Settlement Officer, Mr. Paradkar, the necessity of training the new Assistant Settlement Officer appointed in his place, the difficulty of soil classification and the incorrectness of the maps, the delimitation of discrepant forest boundaries, the ascertainment of the correct *siwai* income of jungle villages, and the enquiries connected with the failure of crops and the consequent distress. The Inspectors attested 272 villages, the Party Officers 237, and 234 were inspected by the Settlement Officer. Since the beginning of operations attestation has been completed in 1,481 villages, leaving a balance of 50 villages of the Bilaspur tahsil and the whole of the Janjgir tahsil. Rent-rate reports for two groups of 216 villages and assessment proposals for one group were submitted. Orders were passed on the two rent-rate reports. No announcement was done during the year. The total cost of operations during the year was Rs. 51,974

Bilaspur (*Zamindaris*).—Here as elsewhere the work suffered a good deal owing to the employment of the staff on work connected with the crop-failure. 400 villages were attested by the Revenue Inspectors and inspected by the Party Officers and the Settlement Officer. Map correction in 249 villages was also completed, leaving 94 to be done. The preliminary report for the north-eastern zamindaris, rent-rate reports for two zamindaris (440 villages) and assessment proposals for the Kenda Zamindari (74 villages) were submitted. The total expenditure of the year was Rs. 45 489.

Jubbulpore.—In common with other districts the settlement work in Jubbulpore was seriously retarded by the failure of crops and the consequent enquiries and measures connected with the distress. Attestation was effected in 585 villages: 554 villages were inspected by Party Officers and the Settlement Officer inspected 501 villages. The maps of 197 villages in the Sihora tahsil were checked and revised. The orders of the Government of India on the preliminary report for the Murwara tahsil were received and the Settlement Officer prepared rent-rate reports for three out of the four groups of the tahsil. The cost of the year's operations was Rs. 58,904.

Nimar (*Ryotwari*).—46 ryotwari villages were surveyed and attested. A rent-rate report for 28 villages was submitted and orders were passed thereon. Two assessment reports for 39 villages were also prepared. The year's expenditure amounted to Rs. 22,917.

Seoni and Betul.—Assessment proposals for three isolated villages in the Seoni district, and for one village in the Betul district, were sanctioned.

LAND RECORDS — 4—LAND RECORDS

[Reports on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1908, and in Berar during the year ending the 31st May 1908.]

Establishment. 27. An Assistant to the Superintendent of Land Records was appointed in each of the Berar districts. Proposals for the amalgamation of the cadre of Superintendents of Land Records in Berar with that of the Central Provinces were

sanctioned after the close of the year, and the nomenclature of the Land Record staff in Berar was made uniform with that existing in the Central Provinces. The revised ha'kabandi of the Mandla district was sanctioned during the year. The revision involved an addition of three Revenue Inspectors and 51 Patwaris to the staff. The introduction of the revised halkabandi while the Settlement Officer was in the district proved to be of great practical advantage as it afforded an opportunity for the training of recruits in their duties and for the acquisition by them of a local knowledge of their circles before conclusion of settlement. The zamindaris of Ambagarh-Chowki, Koracha, Aundhi and Panabaras were transferred from Chanda to the Drug district with effect from the 1st October 1907, the change involving the transfer of one Revenue Inspector and 27 Patwaris The Raipur district was divided into two charges with a Superintendent of Land Records for each Attention was given to the training of Berar Patwaris in survey, and the survey course was improved. Arrangements were made for the supply of survey instruments to Patwaris who had passed their course.

Boundary marks.

28. Village boundary marks were well looked after. The condition of traverse marks is still reported to be unsatisfactory in Damoh, while proper attention to their maintenance is not yet given in the Raipur Zamindaris. Two systems which had been introduced tentatively into certain districts in connection with the maintenance of survey marks were extended to the whole Province during the year. One was the system of noting in red ink the condition of survey marks in the remarks column of the khasra: the other consisted in an improved procedure for report and punishment of negligence in executing repairs. Boundary marks of ryotwari survey numbers were generally maintained in good order, except in the Hatta tahsil of Damoh. In Berar, a new procedure was sanctioned with the object of reducing the heavy work entailed by boundary mark inspection and boundary mark cases.

Utilization of Land Records.

29. The circle note-books have now been completely written up, except in Damoh, Jubbulpore, Betul, Chanda, Raipur, Drug, Bilaspur, Yeotmal and Amraoti. In Jubbulpore, Raipur and Bilaspur they were not completed because the districts were under settlement. In Berar, pressure of work in connection with the enquiry into the state of the crops delayed operations. Village note-books have been brought up to date in all districts, except Saugor, Damoh, Nagpur, Chanda, Raipur, Bilaspur, Drug, Jubbulpore and Mandla.

Testing of Land Records.

30. The checking of village papers by Revenue Inspectors and Superintendents of Land Records was fairly satisfactory, and the number of entries checked by Tahsildars increased. Deputy Commissioners and their Assistants checked the papers of a large number of villages. The percentage of inaccuracies discovered in the khasra has risen, and that in the jamabandi is about the same as last year The condition of village maps continues to improve and is reported from most districts to be satisfactory, except in jungly circles. In Berar the inspection work of both Revenue Inspectors and Superintendents of Land Records was considerably interfered with by miscellaneous work.

Conduct of the Land Record staff.

31. The number of Patwaris living outside their circles without permission rose from 246 to 337. The increase was due to the appointment of many new men in Mandla and the Chhattisgarh districts, who had not had time to take up their residence permanently in their circles. Not many old Patwaris now reside outside their circles. The number of punishments inflicted upon Patwaris fell from 1,348 to 1,167. Probably many inefficient Patwaris still escape dismissal owing to the difficulty of finding a competent successor, but several districts report an improvement in the work and discipline of the Patwari staff. There was a slight increase in the punishments inflicted on Revenue Inspectors. Dismissal was only resorted to in two cases. The work of Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents of Land Records and Revenue Inspectors in a year of some difficulty was on the whole very satisfactory.

5—WASTE LAND

WASTE LAND

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th September 1908 and in Berar for the year ending the 31st May 1908.]

32. The principal six districts of the Central Provinces in which waste lands are available for allotment on ryotwari tenure are the same as last year, *viz.*,

WASTE LAND

Mandla, Seoni, Nimar, Betul, Chanda and Balaghat. The total area available at the beginning of the year stood at 326,726 acres, of which 53,971 acres or only one-sixth were allotted during the year In all the districts mentioned, except Nimar, the area allotted exceeded the area relinquished, but there still remained a large area for allotment at the end of the year.

In Berar nearly 9,000 acres are now to be thrown open to cultivation in completion of a scheme of reclassification which has been long in progress.

GOVERNMENT ESTATES

6—GOVERNMENT ESTATES

33. There are no Government Estates in the Central Provinces or Berar.

WARDS' ESTATES

7—WARDS' ESTATES

[Report on the management by Government of Private Estates for the year ending the 30th September 1908.]

The Central Provinces.

34. The year under report was an unfavourable one for all agricultural classes: still the estates under the management of the Court of Wards exhibited steady progress. The statistics of rental collections afford an ample proof that this progress was chiefly due to rigid economy and efficient management on the part of the Court, though an unexpected reserve of strength displayed by the tenants during the period of distress no doubt contributed. In the case of all the estates that were relinquished during the year, with the single exception of the small estate of Pitras, in the Narsinghpur district, the intervention of the Court of Wards had proved very beneficial.

Income.

35. The total gross income of the year amounted to nearly 9 lakhs, of which Rs. 6,35,288 represents the current rental demand. The collections on account of current demand aggregated Rs. 4,66,898 (or 73 per cent), but, including arrears, the total collections were 75 per cent of the current demand, as compared with 65 per cent for the Province as a whole. Excluding rental suspensions and remissions from the demand, the real collection stood at Rs. 4,77,459, or approximately 92 per cent of the demand—a result in itself indicating that the interests of the wards in this matter have not been neglected.

36. The income from forests, which continues to form an important item, fell off slightly during the year. The decrease was caused by the throwing open of forest coupes to free grazing and by the grant of permission to collect minor forest produce free of charge during the period of scarcity. That the decrease was not larger, was due to the generally increased efficiency of forest management. In recent years the Court of Wards has devoted much attention to this source of income; and the results appear in a very remarkable increase of the forest income in 20 estates that have been under the management of the Court continuously for the last ten years.

Expenditure.

37. The total gross expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 7,34,194, which includes Rs. 2,32,956 (32 per cent of the total sum) on account of land revenue and cesses. The cost of management rose from 13 per cent in the previous year to 21 per cent on the gross income. This increase is sufficiently explained by the circumstances of the year. As a natural sequence of the failure of crops, taccavi loans were granted on an unusually large scale, the total being Rs. 36,435 as compared with last year's figure of Rs. 21,654.

Improvements.

38. The vigour shown by the Court of Wards in the continuance of the policy of estate improvement has always been a marked feature of its management. The total amount spent on works of improvement during the year was Rs. 98,105, which is slightly in excess of that devoted to the same purpose in the previous year. The improvements consisted chiefly of the construction and repair of embankments, wells and tanks; but, besides these, many useful works were undertaken to provide employment for the indigent agricultural and labouring classes.

Debt.

39. In spite of a contraction of income due to the bad monsoon, strict economy combined with careful supervision has enabled the Court of Wards, besides meeting its ordinary expenses, to appropriate a substantial sum for the relief of distress, without thereby involving the estates in further liabilities. Not only was the financial status of the Court well maintained, but a considerable

WARDS' ESTATES

advance was made in the repayment of debt. The result was that the total liabilities of Rs. 10,28,109 outstanding at the beginning o the year had been reduced by Rs 63,568 at its close.

40. Direct cultivation of the home-farm, which was given an extended trial, again showed a great variation in its results. In two cases, where the area of the home-farm so retained was larger than could be conveniently managed, the cultivation gave an unsatisfactory return. A judicious distribution of bonuses to farm servants is an important factor in the success of direct cultivation, and the further extension of the practice, which already existed in some estates, was recommended as an efficacious means of securing honest work from these servants. The cotton-seed farms established in the estates in the Wardha district returned excellent results in every instance. The education of Wards during the year, although the scheme, which was introduced in some estates in the Jubbulpore district, of entrusting to them the direct management of an estate as a means of their training was not attended with success, was in other respects satisfactory. **General.**

8—REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

[Resolution on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th September 1908. Resolution on the Revenue Administration Report of Berar for the year ending the 31st May 1908.]

41. The monsoon of 1907 set in a little late, more particularly in the Jubbulpore Division, and the rainfall was not only much below the normal throughout the Provinces, but its distribution was very unfavourable. The climatic conditions of the year, which were very like those of the famine year 1896, thus proved unsuitable to all crops and brought about widespread hardship amongst the agricultural classes. During June and the first part of July, there were only scattered showers and the monsoon was not well established until the end of July. This late establishment was followed by a heavy and continuous downpour in August and an abrupt cessation of rainfall in September. The deficiency of rainfall was most marked in the north of the Provinces and, though the occurrence of scattered showers made possible the sowing of the kharif crops, the continuous downpour of August and the scorching sun of September withered the plants before they reached maturity. In the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions timely rain in the middle of September prevented an absolute failure of the kharif crops, but the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions suffered severely from an entire cessation of the rains in this month Great variation in the outturns of the kharif crops resulted. In Berar the premature cessation of the rainfall prevented any recovery of the kharif, damaged as it was by the excessive rain of August, and reduced both the area and outturn of the rabi. The result was a very heavy loss on the principal crop, cotton, combined with excessively high prices of food-grains. In the Central Provinces too the early termination of the monsoon was not without its effect on the rabi crops, but the general and well distributed fall at the end of November was sufficient to avert complete disaster, and, on the restricted area sown, the outturn largely exceeded expectations. The adverse conditions did not appear in time to affect the occupation of land for cultivation, and there was a small increase in the total area occupied. The year had, it is true, a bad effect on the material prosperity of the people, but it is gratifying to note that they exhibited great resisting power, and that, except in a few tracts where cattle mortality was exceedingly high, the effects of scarcity are quickly passing or have already passed away While the smaller agriculturists and labouring classes experienced great difficulties, substantial cultivators, who had surplus grain to sell, made large profits owing to the high pitch of famine prices. In Berar only trifling measures were needed for the relief of the cultivating classes, and the demand for culturable land continued keen. The excellent crops, which are being reaped in the present year in the northern districts, should restore the people throughout the Provinces to their former level of prosperity. Agricultural Associations are reported to be taking a growing interest in questions of agricultural improvement and to be doing good work. Irrigation is also fast gaining ground. The year was a critical one for the infant Co-operative Credit Societies. The attitude of the people towards Government was on the whole eminently satisfactory and anti-Government agitation had no vogue amongst the genuine agricultural classes. **General conditions.**

Tenants.

42. The total rental demand exceeded last year's demand by nearly ¾ lakh, and aggregated 124·34 lakhs. Excluding the districts under settlement the total collections on current and arrear account amounted to about 65 per cent of the demand. The true percentage of rental collections, after deducting suspensions and remissions, was, however, about 90 per cent, which, considering the character of the season, was certainly as much as could be expected. The variations in area under the different tenures exhibit the usual tendencies. The process of gradual contraction of the area held in absolute-occupancy right is the automatic result of the non-acquisition of this right, while the increases in the occupancy area are negligible, if the districts of Chanda and Nimar, where practically all tenants have occupancy right, are left out of account. The gains from the conversion of the *sir* land of ex-proprietors into occupancy holdings and the occasional purchase of the right by ordinary tenants were nearly counterbalanced by the losses due to abandonment or merger.

Landlords.

43. In spite of the short crops there has apparently been no serious deterioration in the condition of the landowners, though such deterioration has been a marked feature of previous failures of crops. The number of applications by lambardars under Section 116 of the Land Revenue Act, for assistance to recover arrears of land revenue, has been very small, except in the district of Nagpur, where the revenue-payers as a body are reported to be recalcitrant. The pending file of partition cases shows a decrease. Transfers of proprietary right do not show any marked variation from the normal, while the fall in sales by order of a Civil Court is due to postponement of such sales in some of the northern districts. Private sales and mortgages were more numerous than last year, but this is not the result of scarcity conditions, the effects of which are more likely to be apparent in succeeding years. There is thus no reason to suppose that the agricultural classes are losing ground. Although the total area of land held as *sir* increased by 11,647 acres (mainly on account of re-settlement in several districts), the diminution in the number of applications to transfer *sir* rights is another indication that the calamitous circumstances of the year are not likely to leave any permanent results.

Landlords and tenants.

44. The relations between malguzars and tenants were cordial: the combined effect of tenancy legislation and the industrial development of recent years has been to strengthen the position of both tenants and labourers and to restrain malguzars from oppression and extortion. A striking proof of the co-operation of the two classes is given by the reduction in the number of applications by malguzars for ejectment and by the assistance they rendered to tenants in the period of scarcity by starting works with or without takavi loans in order to keep their villages together. The number of suits by lambardars for arrears of rent, however, rose slightly in the districts of Nagpur, Wardha, Narsinghpur and Damoh. Apart from this, the figures under all heads of tenancy work show a marked decline. The continued purchases by ordinary tenants of occupancy rights, out of Court, at a much enhanced price is a clear evidence of the superior value of the right acquired.

CHAPTER III

PROTECTION

1—LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

45. The Legislative Authority for the Central Provinces is the Council of the Governor-General of India for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations. For Berar, legislation is effected by notifications issued by the Governor-General in Council under the power conferred on him by the Indian (Foreign Jurisdiction) Order in Council, 1902.

2—COURSE OF LEGISLATION

COURSE OF LEGISLATION

46. Only one Act specially affecting the Central Provinces was passed by the Imperial Legislature during the year, *viz.*, the Central Provinces Financial Commissioner's Act, XIII of 1908, which received the assent of the Governor-General on the 30th October 1908. It provides for the appointment of a Financial Commissioner for the Central Provinces and the amendment of the Central Provinces Land Revenue Act, 1881. Seven Acts, namely, the Central Provinces Boiler Inspection Act (II of 1907), the Dramatic Performances Act (XIX of 1876), the Indian Extradition Act (XV of 1903, except Sub-sections (2) and (3) of Section I and Chapters IV and V), the Provincial Insolvency Act III of 1907), the Explosive Substances Act (VI of 1908) the Newspapers (Incitement to Offences) Act (VII of 1908), and the Indian Limitation Act (IX of 1908), were made applicable to Berar by notifications published in the *Gazette of India*. During the year amendments necessitated by the Central Provinces Financial Commissioner's Act were introduced into the Berar Land Revenue Code.

3—POLICE

POLICE.

[Report on the Police Administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1908, and Part VI of the Statistics of British India.]

47. The general increase of crime (from 21,570 to 29,142 cognisable cases), though large, was not larger than was anticipated in the circumstances of the year. The failure of crops in the north of the Provinces and the consequent general high range of prices resulted in an increase in the number of offences against property or person and property by natives of the Provinces, while the demand for labour in industrial concerns, and the comparatively high rate of wages, attracted labourers from other Provinces, who were not above stealing, if the opportunity presented itself. Other special causes were also at work to raise the number of offences: the advent of gangs of Waddars,—a most dangerous criminal tribe,—whom the activity of the police in Hyderabad and the neighbouring portions of Madras and Bombay had driven from their old haunts, resulted in an outbreak of serious dacoities in Berar and the southern portion of the Provinces, while the political excitement of the year roused a spirit of unrest and lawlessness in Berar and the Mahratta districts, where the activity of the disloyalists was regarded as an indication of the weakness of Government; finally, the abolition of outposts under head constables, a measure which is being gradually introduced, has resulted in a substantial increase in the number of offences brought on to the police registers owing to better reporting and to the more complete recording of reports received.

Crime.

48. The total number of offences against the State reported to the police rose from 294 to 403, the increase being under offences relating to coin, offences against public justice, including harbouring of offenders and escapes from custody, personation of public servants and rioting.

Offences against the State.

Offences against the person.

49. The number of offences against the person reported was 1902 or 4 more than in the previous year. The chief variations were a considerable increase in the number of murders, the figures being the highest since the famine year of 1900, and a small decrease under most of the other heads.

Offences against property.

50. The total number of offences reported rose from 7,164 to 10,462, and the number investigated by the police was 6,312 against 4,634 in 1907. There was a serious increase in dacoities, the number of cases reported rising from 26 to 54 in the Central Provinces and from 66 to 117 in Berar, and the value of property stolen rising to Rs. 27,605 in the Central Provinces and to Rs. 48,514 in Berar. However, the gangs which were responsible for most of these dacoities have been at any rate partially broken up. The value of property stolen in house-breakings shows a further increase from Rs. 4,30,000 to Rs. 5,14,000.

Police action.

51. Investigation was less frequent in the Central Provinces and more frequent in Berar than in the previous year. The smaller proportion of investigations in Central Provinces districts was due to the petty nature of a large part of the crime reported. In Berar, crime generally is of a more serious nature, and a comparatively large proportion of it fell into the more serious classes in which investigation is compulsory. The percentage of failures to the total number of investigations slightly decreased both in Berar and in the Central Provinces. The percentage of failures in investigations conducted by the Railway Police is very high, but it has to be remembered that a large number of offences are not reported until there is practically no hope of detecting them. There was a slight rise in the proportion of cases successfully prosecuted in the Central Provinces and a slight falling-off in Berar; the variations call for no special remarks. Both in the Central Provinces and Berar there was a falling-off in the recoveries of stolen property, and this falling-off considerably discounts the improvement in the statistics of successful investigations. In the case of the Central Provinces a decrease in the percentage of investigations naturally led to a falling-off in the percentage of property recovered; but in Berar where the proportion of investigations rose and the percentage of success in investigations also improved, better results might have been hoped for in this branch of work. The net losses of property in all kinds of offences amounted to no less than Rs. 7,04,000 as compared with Rs. 5,68,000 in the previous year, and there is reason to believe that even this large sum does not represent the total gains which went into the pockets of the criminal classes, for several of the reports indicate a tendency on the part of village officers, complainants and the subordinate police to minimise the value of property stolen. House-breaking with a net loss of just under four lakhs of rupees worth of property is the crime which appears to produce the most profitable results to criminals, and it is under this head that the percentage of recovery is smallest. In dacoities the recoveries show a considerable improvement over the figures of past years, while under robberies there is a serious falling-off. Under ordinary thefts the slight falling-off in the percentage of recoveries may reasonably be attributed to the decrease in the percentage of investigations.

Rural and Punitive Police.

52. There are no rural police in these Provinces, the village-headmen, with the assistance of the village-watchmen, being responsible for the prevention and reporting of crime and the rendering of aid in the surveillance of criminals. The indifference of the village-officers in Berar in this matter is again the subject of unfavourable comment.

Establishment.

53. Some progress has been made in the introduction of Police Commission Reforms, but the rate of advance must necessarily be slow. Station-houses under Sub-Inspectors have been substituted for outposts under head constables in three* more districts, and at the end of the year the new system was in force in 8 districts. It is seldom that any immediate improvement is noticeable on the introduction of new methods, and in the present instance there were special difficulties to be faced. The lack of men competent to take charge of the new station-houses, and the discontent of head constables on their reduction from the position of investigating officer in charge of an outpost to that of muharrir of a station-house, were obstacles sufficient to account for any want of immediate

* Hoshangabad, Jubbulpore and Saugor.

success, and it is therefore the more gratifying that favourable accounts of the results of the introduction of the new system have been received. Other reforms of the year included the appointment of 8 District Prosecuting Inspectors and the grant of horse-allowance to all Sub-Inspectors.

At the beginning of the year a Railway Police district was constituted, embracing most of the sections of railway lying within the Central Provinces. The results of this measure appear to be satisfactory, and the number of offenders brought to book is now much larger than under the old system. Some progress has been made during the year in the organization of the Railway Police, but the final proposals of the Inspector-General on this subject await the orders of the Government of India on the report of the Railway Police Committee.

Discipline.

54. It is satisfactory to find that in a year when the strain on all ranks of the force was very heavy, the punishment return shows a considerable decrease from the previous year. This decrease, however, was confined to head constables and constables, the punishments inflicted on officers having been considerably more numerous than in the previous year. Five officers were dismissed and 89 punished in other ways, as compared with 4 dismissed and 33 punished in other ways in 1907.

4—CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

[Report on the Judicial Administration (Criminal) of the Central Provinces for the year 1908, and Part VI of the Statistics of British India.]

Crime.

55. The total number of cases reported and the total number returned as true were 41,295 and 32,741 as compared with 40,246 and 31,827 in the preceding year. There was a great increase in offences under the head of theft and a smaller increase under criminal trespass. There were five offences against the State, all under Section 124-A of the Indian Penal Code: in four the accused were editors of newspapers, of whom two apologised and were acquitted, the others being convicted. The fifth political offence was that of mutilating and disfiguring the statue of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria at Nagpur: of the four accused persons one was eventually convicted. In the case of Municipal offences, the power of composition conferred in 1906 was more generally exercised. The extension of the Workman's Breach of Contract Act to four more districts had a salutary effect and its provisions were of considerable service in preventing fraudulent absconding by gangs of imported workmen.

Courts of Original Jurisdiction.

56. The strength of the Magistracy at the close of the year stood at 507, the increase being 16 per cent over last year's figure. This increase was mainly due to the appointment of 53 extra Honorary Magistrates and the conferral of magisterial powers on 17 Naib-Tahsildars. Of the cases disposed of by Magistrates, ·7 per cent were dealt with by District Magistrates, 67·1 per cent by Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates, and 32·2 per cent by Honorary Magistrates. In 1907 the corresponding figures were ·8, 71·8 and 27·4 respectively. The difference in figures indicates that Honorary Magistrates afforded considerably increased relief to Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates. The percentage of cases tried summarily by Magistrates invested with summary powers declined from 44·4 to 38·1. A very satisfactory feature of the returns was the considerable increase in the number of persons released on probation of good conduct under Section 562 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Some districts had still not made much use of this section.

The despatch of business.

57. The number of cases disposed of increased from 30,433 to 31,687 and the average duration of cases from 16·6 to 19 days, the increase being common both to police and complaint cases. The main causes attributed were the increase in executive work owing to the scarcity, the illness of Honorary Magistrates, and the delay caused by awaiting proof of previous convictions. There was a slight decrease in the number of complaints rejected under Section 203 and in the number of cases in which complainants were made to pay compensation under Section 250 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Sessions Courts.

58. The average duration of Sessions cases decreased from 55·4 to 52·6 days; still better results would have been attained but for the high figure shown by the Nerbudda Division, 74·2. The percentage of convictions in Sessions cases rose from 63·4 to 65·8. In Berar, the total number of persons

committed to the Sessions Court increased from 117 to 305. For this considerable increase gangs of Waddars and Pathans in Yeotmal and gangs of Nihals in Buldana were mainly responsible.

Appellate and Revisional Jurisdiction.

59. The Appellate work of the Judicial Commissioner's Court increased considerably; the number of appeals by persons convicted rising from 276 to 426. There was a similar rise in the appeals to the Courts of Sessions Judges and District Magistrates. The percentages of cases in which no alteration was made in the sentence of the lower court show little variation from those for 1907. Of the three appeals preferred by the Local Government against orders of acquittal, two were successful, and in the third case (under Section 411, Indian Penal Code) the order of acquittal was upheld and the appeal dismissed as there was some doubt whether the accused acted dishonestly.

Punishments.

60. The death penalty was inflicted in 39 cases, and there were 92 sentences of transportation passed during the year. Sentences to short terms of imprisonment increased from 227 to 278 in spite of a decrease in such punishments in Berar. The number of persons reconvicted during the year was 1,069 as compared with 766 in 1907. Sentences of whipping increased from 1,242 to 1,937, while 23 sentences of imprisonment were passed on juveniles. The Judicial Commissioner drew the attention of all Magistrates to the necessity of taking special care to ascertain the prisoner's exact age when the juvenile is not unmistakably over 18 years old. The amount of fines imposed rose from Rs. 1,59,547 to Rs. 1,62,693, and the high percentage of realizations (90·8) affords an indication that the fines imposed were not excessive.

5—PRISONS

PRISONS

[Report on the Jails of the Central Provinces for the year 1908, and Part VI of the Statistics of British India].

General.

61. During the year the Amraoti and Akola Central Jails were reduced to the status of District Jails and the Basim Subsidiary Jail was reduced to a police lock-up. The abolition of the Sironcha Subsidiary Jail and the replacing of it by a magisterial lock-up is under discussion. There are now three Central Jails, 19 District Jails, and one Subsidiary Jail in the Province. The Narsinghpur District Jail is now a jail for casual juvenile-adults for all the northern part of the Province, besides being a District Jail; the habitual juveniles are kept at Jubbulpore as before.

Jail population.

62. The jail population increased, owing to the prevailing scarcity and to the conviction of wandering gangs, *viz.*, Waddars, Ghingabois and Ramosis. There was a disproportionately large increase among female convicts, but this was mainly due to the conviction of women of the Waddar tribe in the Nagpur district. The number of reconvicted prisoners also showed a large increase.

Jail discipline.

63. The discipline was on the whole satisfactory, but a few more escapes occurred than last year, and there was a case of torture in the Bilaspur District Jail. There were 20 escapes during the year, nearly treble the figures of 1907. Out of these 20, seven escaped from inside and 13 from outside the jail, 12 escapes occurring in a single case, where a gang of Waddars made a rush for liberty at the jail gate at Nagpur; fortunately these were nearly all recaptured. The escapes are mostly due to building defects, but they always mean slackness in discipline and careless observation. The number of offences increased, but in a smaller ratio than the jail population: the proportion of minor to major offences stood at six to one, as in the preceding year. Offences relating to work increased, whereas those relating to prohibited articles decreased. The decrease in the latter class of offence probably indicates not greater compliance with rules, but carelessness or corruption on the part of officials of the staff.

Health.

64. The general health of the prisoners throughout the year was not satisfactory, but this is attributed to the poor state of health of many of the prisoners on admission. The increase in sickness and mortality cannot be considered large when the scarcity conditions of the year are taken into account. The ratio per mille of the daily average of sick as well as of deaths rose from 18 to 22 among convicts, while among under-trial prisoners, the ratio of sick increased from 12 to 16 and of deaths fell from 29 to 23. In mortality the Raipur Central

Jail contributes the highest figure, though the sanitation and the food in that jail are particularly good.

65. The average number of convicts sentenced to labour increased, but the cash earnings show a decrease of Rs. 25,060-10-0 over last year's figure, Rs 1,94,165-10-0 against Rs. 2,19,226-4-0. There have been decreases in the amounts paid into the Treasury by Central and District Jails and increases in the amounts drawn on manufacturing account. The explanation of this decrease is that much time was spent by prisoners in unremunerative employment, such as pulling up grass in jails, weeding paths, etc.; the deficits in the stocks of some jails contributed to the decrease. **Jail industries.**

66. The average cost per prisoner was Rs. 87-13-9 as against Rs. 92-0-7 in 1907, a decrease of Rs. 4-2-10 per head. The charges for dieting, hospital clothing and bedding, moving of prisoners and contingencies have all risen, and, excluding the establishment charges, the cost per head in 1908 was Rs. 46 against Rs. 40-1-0 in 1907. Dieting charges have risen by Rs. 5-13-0 and clothing and bedding charges by Rs. 1-9-0. The average net cost per head has risen by Rs. 14-5-0. The increase under the sub-head "Charges for moving prisoners" was due to the large number of releases that took place during the year and to an increase in the number of transfers of prisoners Many of these transfers were necessitated by the reduction of the Akola and Amraoti Jails to the status of District Jails, and several prisoners were moved from District to Central Jails in order to avoid overcrowding. **Cost of Jail Administration.**

6—CIVIL JUSTICE. CIVIL JUSTICE

[Report on the Judicial Administration (Civil) of the Central Provinces for the year 1908, and Part VI of the Statistics of British India.]

67. During the year under report litigation increased in all Divisions of the Central Provinces. The increase took place in all the districts of the Central Provinces, except Betul and Mandla and was fairly evenly distributed. In Betul the small decrease was attributed to scarcity consequent on the partial failure of crops and also to the prevalence of plague at Multai and the surrounding villages, while in Mandla the figures showed a decline to the level of 1905 and 1906. In both districts of Berar there was considerable increase. For this increase various causes are assigned, but those mainly operative were in all probability the disposal of long-pending cases and improved methods of work. In the majority of districts the increase was chiefly apparent in suits for money and movable property, and it is probable that creditors took advantage of the high prices of food-grains, which ruled during the year under report, to bring suits for the repayment of loans which had been given in grain. The total value of suits rose to one crore and 81 lakhs, showing a further increase of three-and-a-half lakhs over the figure of 1907. The disparity between the Central Provinces and Berar in the number of cases not exceeding Rs. 10 in value still continued, in the former nearly 15 per cent and in the latter not quite two per cent of the total number instituted falling within that class. The satisfactory result of the further extension of Small Cause Court powers is shown by the fact that cases instituted in the Central Provinces for trial by the summary procedure increased from 7,670 to 12,171. **Character of litigation.**

68. The pending file of suits increased by 2,986, but it contains only 21·5 per cent of the total number of suits before the Court as against 21·9 in 1907. The number of suits pending over six months and over three months was reduced considerably. This result was attained by giving assistance to Courts where there was congestion. The two Berar districts made a marked advance in approximating to the Central Provinces standard. The proportion borne by the pending file to the aggregate of suits for disposal. **Pending suits.**

69. The number of applications for execution of decrees rose by 9·5 per cent, the increase being shared by all districts. Realizations increased by 4·5 per cent. The number of applications which were wholly infructuous increased by 1,053 or 2·4 per cent. Satisfaction in part and satisfaction in full were obtained in 17·3 and 21·5 per cent, respectively, of decided cases; these figures **Execution of decrees.**

vary very slightly from those of 1907. The proportion of applications which were wholly infructuous was again larger in Berar than in the Central Provinces and for this the whole-time Small Cause Courts in Berar were chiefly responsible.

Appellate litigation.

70. The total number of appeals, regular and miscellaneous, which came before the court of the Judicial Commissioner, was 1,381 as against 1,319 in 1907; 905 of these were disposed of, the pending file being thus left practically unaltered. The tendency towards increase in regular and miscellaneous appeals before Divisional Judges still continued during the year under report, and the pending file rose from 139 to 168. The Chhattisgarh Division alone showed greater promptitude in disposal; in the Nagpur Division the reason assigned for longer duration was the increase by 30 in the number of cases for disposal. The number of appeals pending in the District Courts increased from 836 to 963. In the Central Provinces and East Berar the duration of regular appeals declined appreciably, while in West Berar it rose by nearly five days. The file of miscellaneous appeals was everywhere small.

Miscellaneous.

71. In March 1908, the pay of officiating Munsiffs was raised from Rs. 100 to Rs. 125; and shortly after the close of the year, Munsiffs obtained the valuable privilege of counting as service qualifying for pension the periods, whether continuous or not, during which they have held acting appointments prior to confirmation. Though applications for employment were fairly numerous, difficulty was experienced in some cases in getting registered candidates (who were mostly pleaders), to take up a temporary vacancy as they were very naturally disinclined to leave their practice for a short period. The abolition of Drug, Damoh and Balaghat as separate Civil Districts was decided on during the year under report, and they are now combined with Raipur, Saugor and Bhandara, respectively. The schemes under consideration included the provision of entirely separate Nazarats for the Judicial and Executive Departments. In spite of the strain on the resources of the Administration due to the adverse agricultural conditions, considerable relief was afforded by a strengthening of the ministerial staff. The requirements of the department in the matter of accommodation are numerous. So far it has not been possible to formulate a complete scheme for the division of the Central Provinces into District and Sessions Judgeships, and partly for this reason and partly owing to financial stringency progress in the building programme was retarded during 1908.

7—REGISTRATION.

REGISTRATION

[Note on the working of the Registration Department in the Central Provinces during the year 1908, and Part VI of the Statistics of British India.]

Registrations affecting immovable property.

72. Compulsory registrations, affecting immovable property, rose from Rs. 53,180 in 1907 to Rs. 65,693 in 1908. The increase works out to 27 per cent in the Central Provinces and 21 per cent in Berar, and it was shared by all districts. The causes assigned are a wider knowledge of the 1904 amendment of the Transfer of Property Act requiring mortgages of under Rs. 100 value to be registered; the enforcement of a recent ruling of the Privy Council regarding the limitation period for suits on mortgage-deeds; a better knowledge of the registration law; and the rush of marriages preceding the *Singhast* year. Poor crops and high prices also are stock explanations. One of the chief causes assigned in Berar for the increase is the rise in the cost of labour, but the extension of the Transfer of Property Act to Berar is in part responsible for the increase in that Division. Optional registrations relating to immovable property have largely increased in the Central Provinces and have declined in Berar. The number of wills and adoptions has decreased from the abnormally high figures (due to plague) of the previous year.

Registrations affecting movable property.

73. Registrations of sales of movable property have risen during the year under report. Considering the conditions of the year the number was not great.

Miscellaneous.

74. Receipts increased by 14 per cent as a result of increased registration. Expenditure increased by 4 per cent, the causes being increased commission, temporary establishment, grain compensation and plague hutting. The system of taking thumb impressions continues to give satisfaction. Proposals submitted by the Inspector-General of Registration for the revision of the fee schedule, the

REGISTRATION

assimilation of procedure in the Central Provinces and Berar, and the revision of the Berar establishment and the Central Provinces menial establishment have been submitted to the Government of India for consideration.

8—MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

[Resolution on the working of the Municipal Committees of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1908-09, and Part VIII of the Statistics of British India.]

Number and constitution of Municipalities.

75. There has been no variation in the number of Municipalities in the Provinces during the year 1908-09. Further progress has been made in the introduction of the elective principle: Yeotmal was allowed again to elect its Committee from the beginning of the year, while since its close the right of election has been extended to the Municipality of the flourishing commercial town of Karanja. There remain in the Central Provinces and Berar combined only seven Municipal Committees to which the members are appointed by virtue of their offices or by nomination. Of these the Committees of Pachmarhi, Amraoti Camp, Buldana and Ellichpur Civil Station are by their nature most suited for this type of constitution, more particularly since the interests of Government and its officials largely predominate in these Municipalities; while of the others, in Kalmeshwar the privilege of election was taken away in the year preceding that under review, as the elected body had shown that it had not developed the sense of responsibility requisite for self-government, in Khapa ignorance and apathy among the electorate had previously led to the same result, and in Ellichpur City the local conditions and the wishes of the people are still alike in opposition to the formation of an elected Committee. The interest of the electorate and of the members has varied very considerably in intensity. The elections in Hinganghat exhibit a new and encouraging feature in the return of two Mahar members who will represent the large Mahar industrial population of that town. The Vice-Chairman of Amraoti Municipality, the President of Chanda Municipality, and one or two other members of local bodies were removed from office for taking part in disloyal movements.

Income.

76. The figures of the year reflect a dull trade, for, though the total income of all Municipalities, excluding loan and account heads, was Rs. 21,63,235 against Rs. 20,81,241 in the preceding year, a larger proportion, *viz.*, approximately two lakhs, falls under the head of Contributions from Government and other sources. Over two-thirds of the income, or slightly over $14\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees, was derived from Municipal rates and taxes, while the revenue from fees and Municipal property amounted to Rs. 3,39,368. The largest increase of income was at Nagpur, *viz.*, Rs. 1,19,691. Smaller increases were shown by Raipur (Rs. 13,288), Amraoti Town (Rs. 11,716) and Akola (Rs. 8,676). Of the increase in Nagpur, Rs. 24,581 is under the head of Octroi; to this result the absence of a serious outbreak of plague and the influx of visitors to the Central Provinces and Berar Exhibition contributed; and while in the other cases the causes of the rise in income varied, in Akola only is it ascribed to an increase in taxation. The revenue from octroi taxation fell from Rs. 8,10,852 to Rs. 7,94,091, and the incidence per head of the population dropped by one pie. The decrease was confined to the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions, since special causes in Nagpur, as previously mentioned, counteracted to some extent the effects of the *Singhast* year and the depression in trade which caused the consumption of the majority of taxable commodities to fall considerably and led to a corresponding contraction of imports. Three Municipalities showed noticeable diminution in their incomes, *viz.*, Khandwa (Rs. 14,846), Khamgaon (Rs. 11,043) and Wardha (Rs. 9,462). In the case of Khandwa the decrease is not altogether in regular income, since grants and contributions come to Rs. 10,000 less than in the previous year; but there was also a considerable fall under Octroi. In the other towns the decrease was largely in ordinary receipts from taxation; in Khamgaon the *sutta* tax, usually a fertile source of income, was practically non-productive owing to complete absence of this form of transaction during the year. The Municipalities in Berar suffered very generally from the poor trade and short harvests of the year. The *sutta* tax was not the only case in which poor trade caused a serious setback in Municipal finance. Another notable instance was the surplus income of the cotton markets in Municipal areas, which is payable to the Municipalities concerned; the state of the cotton trade caused this surplus to contract very considerably. The steady improvement of past years in income from taxation other than octroi has been maintained during the year under review, the figures being Rs. 6,61,269 against

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

Rs. 6,20,298 for the year 1907-08, giving an increase of Rs. 40,971. In the Central Provinces the income rose by Rs. 20,749. As last year, water-rate and conservancy show the largest increases. The income of the Berar Municipalities increased in almost every instance, the total being Rs. 2,20,045 as against Rs. 1,99,823 last year, although the absence of *sutta* transactions caused the income of the Khamgaon Municipality to drop by Rs. 9,187. The incidence of taxation per head rose from Re. 1-9-6 to Re. 1-10-9 in the Central Provinces and Berar together.

Expenditure.

77. The total opening balance of all Municipalities at the beginning of the year was Rs. 7,55,216, while the total receipts amounted to Rs. 26,93,540. The sum available for expenditure was thus Rs. 34,48,756. The total disbursements, including extraordinary and debt heads, amounted to Rs. 26,73,924, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 7,74,832, inclusive of deposits. The actual expenditure, excluding extraordinary and debt heads, amounted to Rs. 23,05,407, a decrease of Rs. 73,548 from the figure of the preceding year. The capital expenditure laid out upon water-works and drainage during the year was Rs. 60,536 against Rs. 3,51,855 in 1907-08; but the latter figure included a loan of 3 lakhs transferred from the Jubbulpore Municipal Committee to the Public Works Department for the extension of the water-works of that Municipality; and if this sum is excluded, the expenditure shows an increase of Rs. 8,681 in the year under review. Work was begun on the Gorewara Reservoir for the supply of water to the town and Civil Station of Nagpur during the last month of the year under review. A new system of water-supply is under construction in Harda, and improvements are being made with the assistance of a loan of Rs. 30,000 from Government to the water-works at Burhanpur. At Khandwa, Akola and Amraoti the short rainfall caused considerable difficulties in regard to the supply of water and an increased outlay on pumping operations. New schemes are, however, under consideration for the improvement of the supply to Amraoti Camp and Akola. An extensive sewerage scheme has been prepared for the drainage of the city of Nagpur by Mr. Lane-Brown. A similar scheme is being drawn up for the town of Jubbulpore, and proposals are under consideration for the surface drainage of the smaller towns of Wardha, Harda, Khandwa, Burhanpur and Bilaspur. Among the Berar Municipalities schemes already exist for Akola, Basim, Karanja and Khamgaon. In all these cases expert advice will be required before work is actually undertaken. There has been a considerable increase in the expenditure on conservancy, which rose from Rs. 4,62,206 to Rs. 5,31,372. The expenditure on roads increased by Rs. 15,976 and that on lighting also shows a slight increase.

Loans.

78. There were during the year ten Municipalities which had taken loans from Government, *viz.*, Nagpur, Wardha, Hinganghat, Bhandara, Jubbulpore, Khandwa, Burhanpur, Raipur, Amraoti Camp and Akola, while Saoner and Seoni had borrowed from private sources. Nagpur incurred a fresh liability during the year of one lakh for the construction of markets and improvements to roads, while the first instalment of Rs. 25,000 towards the loan for the Gorewara Project was also paid before the end of the year. The total balances outstanding at the close of 1908-09 on account of loans amounted to Rs. 12,30,682. Of this sum Nagpur and Jubbulpore, the largest borrowers, showed balances of Rs. 3,64,434 and Rs. 3,69,417. The financial position of both these Municipalities continues sound. Nagpur opened the year with a balance of Rs. 93,687 and closed it with an increased balance of Rs. 1,74,115, both balances excluding debt heads. The balance at the disposal of the Jubbulpore Municipal Committee decreased from Rs. 19,427 at the beginning to Rs. 12,134 at the end of the year. Neither town has yet reached the limit of its borrowing powers, though various schemes for improvement in Jubbulpore, for which money is required during the current and ensuing years, will bring that Municipality close to the margin.

9—DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS

DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS

[Resolution on the working of the District Councils and Local Boards for 1908-09, and Part VIII of the Statistics of British India.]

Number, constitution, meetings and attendance.

79. The number of Councils and Boards remained the same as in the previous year, and the changes in their constitution were unimportant. At the present time Mandla is the only district in the Province to which the Local Self-Government Act has not been applied. The question of extending the Act to

this district was considered during the year; but the Commissioner was of opinion that it would be better to wait a few years until communications in the district had been improved, and more experience gained as to the effect of increasing the powers of Local Bodies in stimulating interest in local affairs. The Chief Commissioner agrees that for the present the Local Fund Committee, which consists entirely of nominated members, may continue to act; but he is of opinion that no sufficient reason exists for indefinitely delaying the introduction of the elective principle, at any rate in the Mandla tahsil. The District Councils in the Central Provinces and the District Boards in Berar met on an average six times during the year, and it is satisfactory to find that none of them met fewer than four times. The Local Boards in the Central Provinces met on the average seven times and only seven of them failed to hold the prescribed number of meetings. In Berar, the Taluq Boards all met at least eight times. These results are very similar to those of last year: but in the matter of attendance there has been a perceptible improvement. It is probable that this improvement is due to the enhanced powers in regard to expenditure which have been entrusted to the Local Boards. The delegation must also have added considerably to the work of the Boards, and it is, therefore, all the more satisfactory to learn that members were to be found who were willing to undertake the executive duties entailed thereby. It would appear that in Nagpur the Council can no longer be reproached with usurping the functions intended under the Act to be discharged by the Local Boards. Similar action, though not perhaps to the same extent, has been taken in other districts. The Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Division, reports that in his Division the requisite powers were delegated and that much assistance was received from Local Board members in carrying out Civil and Sanitary works. But the Commissioner, Jubbulpore, reports that the members of Local Boards have not yet realized the full extent to which their powers have been increased and that many matters which should be disposed of by them are still dealt with by the District Councils. In the Nerbudda Division, also, the Local Boards of all districts were not authorized to exercise the full powers indicated in the Chief Commissioner's orders; but the Commissioner reports that where they have been so authorized, they have been found equal to the work.

80. In the Central Provinces the total income of all the District Councils, excluding account heads, amounted to Rs. 14,61,000 as compared with Rs. 14,62,000 in the previous year. The contribution from Government was raised to Rs. 5,05,700. Excluding general contributions the income of the Councils increased by Rs. 19,896. Under other heads the most important variations were an increase of Rs. 58,000 in cesses, due to the collection of suspended arrears, and a decrease of Rs. 40,000 in pound receipts. With the exception of three districts, the decline in the income from pounds was general over the whole Province, and it is ascribed to the return of normal conditions after a year in which fodder was unusually scarce. In Berar the income of all the Boards, excluding account heads, decreased by Rs. 83,000. The procedure as regards pound receipts was assimilated with that in force in the Central Provinces. Government contributions were reduced from Rs. 1,80,000 to Rs. 1,58,100, causing a decrease of Rs. 21,900 in the Boards' income. Apart from the decrease in Government contributions the only large variations in the income calling for notice were decreases of Rs. 40,000 and Rs. 25,000 in the receipts from the village service cess and the bazar cess respectively, and an increase of Rs. 21,000 in pound receipts. In previous years the Jaglia or village service cess was paid direct from the Treasury, but from the commencement of the year under report a separate Excluded Local Fund, called the Jaglia and Local Cess Fund, was established for this purpose; and a portion of the surplus was retained by Deputy Commissioners to meet the charges of the next year. The decrease in the income from bazar cess is partly due to a real decrease in the auction bids owing to scarcity conditions and partly due to a change in the method of recoveries, the one-fourth advance being no longer taken from contractors. The receipts from pounds increased from Rs. 69,000 to Rs. 90,000 owing to the fact that the District Boards have taken over the management of pounds. The change of policy under which school fees are now given to the schools and not credited to the District Fund accounts for a further decline of Rs. 9,300 in Education receipts. **Income.**

DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS.

Expenditure.

81. The total expenditure over the whole Province, excluding account heads, amounted to Rs. 30,12,000 as compared with Rs. 25,01,000 in the preceding year. The increase in the Central Provinces occurs under almost every head. The devolution of powers to Local Boards necessitated a considerable increase in establishments, and their normal cost was augmented by the grant of grain compensation allowances. The opening of new pounds, and the increase in the pay of Muharrirs and graziers owing to the general rise in prices required additional expenditure. But the main heads under which the expenditure has increased are "Civil Works" and "Education." The extension of education during the year has been the accepted policy in every district; and the opening of new schools has progressed concurrently with improvement in the pay of the teaching staff. In Berar the apparent increase in the expenditure amounts to more than 4½ lakhs: but the figures are misleading, since Rs. 2,87,000 of the expenditure consists of transfers made by the District Boards to form a working balance for the newly established Jaglia and Local Cess Fund. Apart from this special payment, the increase of other expenditure, amounting to over 1½ lakhs, is distributed over all heads. The management of cattle-pounds involved an extra expenditure of Rs. 28,700. Expenditure on Education shows another large rise of Rs. 54,000. Larger contributions have been made for the upkeep of dispensaries, vaccination charges for the whole year fell on the District Boards, and more expenditure was incurred on sanitation with the result that medical charges show an increase. Expenditure on Civil Works has risen by Rs. 74,000. The closing balances both in the Central Provinces and Berar were substantial. The appreciation of the services of Veterinary Assistants is generally increasing. The Veterinary Department has in the current year been provincialized. As regards arboriculture, attention has mainly been devoted to the maintenance of existing avenues.

10—MILITARY (VOLUNTEERING)

MILITARY

Number of active Corps.

82. There are two Volunteer Corps in the Provinces, the Nagpur Rifles and the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Rifles.

The Nagpur Volunteer Rifles.

83. The enrolled strength of the Nagpur Volunteer Rifles rose from 787 to 917, of whom 28 were commissioned officers. Of this total figure 616 were extra-efficient, 209 efficient and 56 non-efficient. The marksmen numbered 175 against 217 last year. The expenditure was heavy, and a large sum had to be taken again from the capitation grant to meet the cost of the band. Funds are much needed for the acquisition of new rifle ranges, and for the repair of those which exist. The Camp of Exercise was held from the 27th January to the 4th February 1909, both days inclusive; it was attended by 14 officers and 378 men, of whom 13 officers and 359 men were present at the annual inspection. The mounted troops made good progress, the number of efficients rising from 62 to 76. A Ladies' Rifle and Revolver Club was started during the year.

The Bengal-Nagpur Railway Rifles.

84. The Bengal-Nagpur Railway Corps is divided into two battalions, the first of which is under the administrative control of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, its head-quarters being at Kharagpur in Bengal, and the second has its head-quarters at Nagpur. The total enrolled strength of the second battalion on the 31st March 1908 was 491 (including 11 officers) as against 512 in the previous year. Only four men failed to qualify as efficients or extra-efficients. The financial position of the Corps is very satisfactory. A Camp of Exercise of of both battalions was held at Sini, and was attended by 139 officers and men of the second battalion, the various schemes being in connection with the defence of the railway.

CHAPTER IV

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

1—AGRICULTURE

[Reports on the working of the Department of Agriculture and on the Agricultural Stations of the Central Provinces for the year ending 30th June 1909; Report on the working of the Civil Veterinary Department of the Central Provinces during the year ending the 31st March 1909, and Report on the working of Co-operative Credit Societies, Central Provinces and Berar, for the year 1908-09.]

Agricultural education.

85. Although the difficulties of staff and laboratory accommodation were not completely surmounted, the progress made by the Agricultural College during the year was creditable. The superior staff of the Department has now reached its full sanctioned strength, but the subordinate service is still undermanned. The development of the Agricultural College should remove this defect in the near future. The number of students in residence increased from 22 to 43, and until additional assistants were obtained, the lecturing staff found the classes unwieldy, particularly for laboratory work. 43 students appeared for examination against 17 in the previous year. During the year eight students, who had been admitted in the three years, left the college, seven of them during the first year of their instruction. The results of the examinations were satisfactory, for all the third-year students (three in number) passed, one obtaining a first class diploma; the second and first years' students also promised well, and practical work showed great improvement. The malguzari class was less successful than in former years, only 12 boys passing through it during the year. The reports on this class have been disappointing from the beginning of its history, and each succeeding year has shown less encouraging results than the last. It is under contemplation to substitute for the present central class at Nagpur a system of short courses at local centres in particular branches of agriculture in which particular students may be interested. During the year 23 Normal School masters were trained at the college; after which the Normal classes were discontinued, a course of "nature study" being substituted at the Normal Colleges at Nagpur and Jubbulpore.

In addition to the publication of the monthly *Agricultural Gazette*, the circulation of which increased from 3,140 copies in 1907-08 to 4,653 copies in 1908-09, the Department published some bulletins and leaflets on special subjects.

Agricultural experiments.

86. The experiments conducted during the year were, except on the Labandih Farm, handicapped to a considerable extent by the unfavourable character of the rainfall, while some of them were of such a nature that a series of tests covering several years will be necessary before definite results can be obtained at. This applies particularly to the experiments in the cultivation of wheat carried out at the Powarkhera Farm. Much useful observation work was done, and the reports from the various stations showed a good year's record. At the Akola Farm the experiments with cotton were continued, and the results showed the superiority of the imported *buri* variety over the ordinary *jari* even under the conditions of the year, which was marked by exceptionally continuous rains; and even the long-stapled "malvensis," the superiority of which was noted in the previous year, was apparently less profitable than the *buri*. At Labandih some useful work was done on sugarcane and in testing various methods of cultivating rice and other crops; but the most important work connected with this station was that of demonstrating the transplantation of rice. Among minor experiments the wild lucerne, to which reference was made last year, was a distinct success and may become an useful factor in the solution of the fodder problem in Chhattisgarh. The main experiments at Powarkhera gave somewhat negative results, but experiments in wheat must always take a

considerable time before any positive conclusion can be arrived at. The experiments in jute at Nagpur and Telinkheri were successful and are of interest, although it is doubtful whether jute will take the place of food-crops to any great extent in the immediate future.

Agricultural enquiry and demonstration.

87. Research work was carried on steadily throughout the year in the three Departments of Chemistry, Botany and Entomology. Here, as in the case of the college, considerable difficulty was experienced owing to the lack of accommodation, but, in spite of all obstacles, steady progress was achieved. In the work of demonstration a large part was taken by the Agricultural Section of the Nagpur Exhibition. The work of the Department was illustrated in such a way as to bring its value home to the cultivator; and while the more advanced agriculturist was catered for on the scientific side, the working of agricultural machinery afforded an object-lesson to all. Apart from the Exhibition the most valuable work in demonstration was in the transplantation of rice in Chhattisgarh. In this work advantage was taken of the advice and co-operation of the Irrigation Department. New machinery and new implements were made known over a wide area, and the local shows and fairs were utilized as centres for instruction. During this the fourth year of the existence of the seed-farms, the Department continued the policy of purchasing seed at an enhanced rate to ensure profit to the proprietors. The seed thus purchased was sold at rates 50 per cent in advance of bazar rates, and it is believed that cultivators have now realized the value of the selected seed. Winnowers, turn-wrest ploughs and corn shellers held, as hitherto, a prominent place among the machinery distributed by the Department, while the demand for chain-pumps and, to some extent, for bullock gears was marked. The Powarkhera Farm achieved considerable success in popularising improved machinery during the year.

District Associations.

88. The work of these Associations continued to make good progress. When they were first started, there was a tendency for members to consider them as small district Darbars, reserved only for influential men who might be, but were generally not, practical farmers. That idea is rapidly disappearing, and many of these Associations now contain a large majority of members who are not only dependent upon agriculture, but are eager to assist in any schemes for improvement that may be brought to their notice. Their work will continue to improve as the Deputy Directors get into touch with every tract in their charges and meet individuals whose opinions may be helpful.

Co-operative Credit Societies.

89. Twenty new societies were registered during 1908-09, of which 18 were rural, while a central bank was established at Akola and an urban bank at Baihar; there were 5 central, 8 urban and 87 rural societies in existence at the close of the year as against 4, 7 and 69, respectively, at its beginning. The number of members rose from 4,042 to 5,801, and the working capital from Rs. 1,61,605 to Rs. 2,03,602. In Akola a proposal that the new central bank should prevent idle capital by a small hundi business with approved saokars was sanctioned; elsewhere no innovation in organization was introduced. In Jubbulpore many of the rural societies adopted during the year a bye-law requiring members to make small annual deposits.

Though the movement in the provinces is now past the experimental stage, it is not yet possible to state definitely that one particular type of central bank has, by its success, proved its peculiar suitability for all districts. The Kirnapur central bank, which works with purely local funds, made steady progress and the scheme of decentralization of the accounts of the affiliated societies has been nearly completed. The work of the Sihora bank increased with great rapidity as the year progressed: the working capital rose from Rs. 6,979 to Rs. 13,876 and the bank financed 10 new societies that came into existence during the year, in addition to societies of prior date. The success of this bank in enlisting the interest and aid of established joint stock concerns like the Allahabad and Bhargava banks was most gratifying. In Betul, the season was unfavourable and societies generally had some difficulty in getting through the year; the central bank did not call up more capital to finance the new crops and Government had to come to the assistance of the banks with takavi. The failure of local capital to supply the demand was due in this instance to a crisis supervening

before the rural banks had consolidated their position and established their credit: elsewhere there was no indication that, with proper organization, local capital backed by existing joint stock banks would not be able to supply the demand for a long time to come. The Akola central bank was registered only at the beginning of the cold weather and did little work during the year. The total working capital of all the central banks was Rs. 52,409 against Rs. 32,917 at the end of the previous year; most of this capital consisted of share money and deposits by members.

The working capital of the urban banks rose from Rs. 49,388 to Rs. 61,175 and the number of members from 1,067 to 1,231; the capital consisted chiefly of share money and members' deposits. During the year Rs. 83,734 was granted in loans, while repayments amounted to Rs. 73,607; in all societies, except Burhanpur, the loans were repaid with fair punctuality. The work done by urban societies was most useful; in both Balaghat and Betul the banks took up the question of paying off members' old debts, Rs. 3,500 being advanced for this purpose in Balaghat alone. The gross profits earned during the year amounted to Rs. 6,643, of which Rs. 5,927 was interest received on loans. The interest on working capital varied generally between 6 per cent in Hatta and 8·3 per cent in Balaghat; the Burhanpur bank was, however, an exception, for it earned only 4·5 per cent, this low rate being due, as in the previous year, to incomplete employment of capital on loans. The members of this society are principally artizans, weavers of silk or manufacturers of embroidery: the advent of scarcity invariably demonstrates the hopeless financial condition of this class, and the organisation, encouragement and extension of the caste credit and the caste savings on a co-operative basis, is a matter for consideration. During the year Rs. 2,978 was carried to the Reserve Fund, the total of which at the end of the year was Rs. 3,464.

The number of members of rural societies increased from 2,881 to 3,942 and the working capital from Rs. 79,300 to Rs. 90,017. All districts concerned contributed towards this increase, but the progress was most marked in Jubbulpore and Balaghat. Of the 87 rural societies in existence at the end of the year, two in Jubbulpore were registered late and had no time for work, while two old societies in Akola had no transactions at all. In the Akola district there were altogether four societies which were practically dormant, though two of them showed signs of activity at the end of the year. The Chanda societies did more work and the business in that district is increasing. Loans advanced to members amounted to Rs. 68,628 and recoveries to Rs. 61,993. Profits on the working capital, exclusive of the Balaghat societies, ranged from under 3 per cent in Jubbulpore to over 9 per cent in Saugor. In the case of Jubbulpore the rate is necessarily low, since many new societies issued loans late in the year and obtained no return on them before the year closed. In reality the Jubbulpore societies were the most prosperous and efficient in the province: the total figures are so small that all the statistics are liable to be much affected by the circumstances of a few societies. The rates of interest were about the same as before, and the few societies that had been lending to members at less than 12 per cent raised their rates to that figure. If "philanthropic" loans at 5 per cent or under be excluded, rural societies pay between 7·5 and 9 per cent for their funds. There is a disposition in rural societies to under-capitalize societies so that the societies are unable to meet all the reasonable demands of their members.

On the whole the season was favourable for the spread of the co-operative movement; good progress was made, and the difficulty felt by the Registrar was, not distrust in the movement, but almost too much natural energy.

The Veterinary Department.

90. The effects of the provincialisation of the Civil Veterinary Department to which reference was made last year, had not time to appear, as the new system came into force only in the last month of the year. The improvement in prospects should, however, have a beneficial effect on recruitment for the veterinary service of the Province. The difficulty experienced in attracting candidates of a proper stamp still proves one of the main obstacles to the progress of the Department. Proposals were sanctioned under which such veterinary assistants as are only passed salutris of the Bombay Veterinary College are permitted to return to the College for another year's training, and

proposals with the object of enabling the more promising assistants to attend a post-graduate course are awaited. There was a large decrease during the year in the number of cattle inoculated against rinderpest, a decrease due apparently to the diminished prevalence of the disease, and not to any distrust of the operation. There was a substantial increase in the number of cases treated by itinerant veterinary assistants on tour, 5,537 villages having been visited as against 3,999 in the previous year. There was a general increase in the number of animals and the proportion of bovines treated at dispensaries, the increase being especially large in Chhattisgarh. There were some serious outbreaks of surra during the year, associated in several cases with the mail-tonga routes; the disease was very virulent on the Betul and Yeotmal lines.

2—WEATHER AND CROPS.

WEATHER AND CROPS

[Season and Crop Report of the Central Provinces for the year 1908-09; Part V of the Statistics of British India, 1908-09.]

Rainfall.

91. The monsoon of 1908 was established on the 25th June, or nearly a fortnight late. The June rainfall was 29 per cent in excess in Berar and 8 per cent in excess in the east of the Central Provinces; in the rest of the Province it was more or less in defect. In July the rainfall was practically normal and well distributed. During August heavy rain fell in nearly all districts, the quantity received being 38 per cent above normal. A break occurred in the latter part of September and continued during October, in which month there was very little rain, the defect amounting to 95 per cent in the Central Provinces, and 100 per cent in Berar. November was rainless. Rain fell in December, but the quantity received was below the normal in most districts. The weather was practically dry in January throughout the Province, while the rainfall in February was normal and that in March trifling. In April the fall was 41 per cent in defect in Berar, but markedly above the normal in the Central Provinces. In the western districts the weather was more disturbed than is usual in May, and the rainfall was above normal. Agricultural operations were brought to a close by the end of the month. The total rainfall during the year for the Central Provinces was 53·75 inches, as compared with 48·26, the average for 41 years. For Berar the total fall was 37·26 inches as against 29·95 inches, the average for the previous 15 years. All except seven districts received more than the average rainfall.

Character of the season.

92. Conditions were fairly favourable for the kharif harvest, but the heavy rainfall of August did some damage and not quite enough rain was received in the later months. The crops which were standing at the beginning of November were fair to good; but cotton, til, juar and tur, all of which at one time promised well, suffered from the excessive early monsoon in several districts and in some from subsequent want of moisture. The kharif area increased in the Central Provinces by 108,647 acres but shrank by 74,000 acres in Berar owing to heavy rain during the early monsoon, which in places did not allow of the land prepared being sown with kharif crops. Although lack of late rain to a certain extent restricted the area sown with rabi in the south and east of the Province, the rabi area of the Central Provinces and Berar together showed an increase of 1,397,000 acres or 24 per cent over the abnormally contracted sowings of last year; but this is still 10 per cent short of the figure for 1906-07. All Divisions, except Nerbudda, shared in the recovery. The outturns of some of the principal crops are described in the following paragraphs:—

Yield of the autumn (kharif) crops.

93. *Rice.*—For rice the rainfall was seasonable and well distributed, and the crop did well in all the important rice districts, except Bhandara. Transplanted rice did better than broadcast in all the important rice districts, and in Raipur it was almost a bumper crop. For the Province as a whole the outturn of broadcast and transplanted rice amounted to 99 and 107 per cent, respectively, against 56 and 57 in 1907-08.

Juar.—The continuous early rain damaged juar considerably, and the outturn in the important juar tracts was only 86 per cent of a normal crop. The total yield for both Central Provinces and Berar was 70 per cent compared with 55 in the preceding year.

Cotton.—In most of the principal cotton-growing districts, sowings were a little delayed, but were usually effected under favourable conditions; and the germination was as a rule good. The abnormally heavy rains of July and August, however, greatly retarded weeding and stunted growth and in some districts caused a certain amount of land to be re-sown with other crops. The rains practically ceased towards the end of September; the cotton plants then for a time improved greatly, but afterwards suffered from want of moisture. On the whole the season was not a good one and the estimated outturn of cotton ranged from 30 to 98 per cent of a normal crop, as compared with 33 to 72 per cent in the preceding year.

Tur.—Tur fared well during the year, and the outturn in Wardha and Balaghat was 110 and 112 per cent, respectively, of a normal crop. Jubbulpore, Mandla, Betul and Drug reported a normal and Narsinghpur slightly above a normal yield. Elsewhere the outturn ranged from 50 to 96 per cent of the normal.

Til.—The abnormally heavy rains of July and August did considerable damage to kharif til, and some re-sowing was necessary; the late variety, on the other hand, suffered from want of moisture. Insects injured the kharif til in Hoshangabad, Chhindwara and Bilaspur. Of the important til growing districts Drug returned 107 per cent of a normal crop, and the yield in Raipur was normal. Elsewhere the estimated outturn ranged from 50 to 98 per cent of a normal crop. For the Province as a whole the yield was 80 per cent of a normal crop as compared with 54 per cent in the preceding year.

Kodon and kutki.—The smaller millets, kodon and kutki, did well. The outturn in Narsinghpur, Nimar and Chhindwara was between 100 and 110. Elsewhere the yield did not exceed 90 per cent. The outturn for the Province as a whole was double that of 1907-08.

Yield of the spring (rabi) crops.

Wheat.—The heavy rains of July and August left the soil fairly moist; conditions at sowing time were generally favourable, though in parts of Chhattisgarh the rather early cessation of the monsoon prevented some of the higher and poorer wheat lands from being sown. Germination on the whole was good and no re-sowing was necessary. The winter showers, though scanty, were very beneficial and, though frost, cloudy weather and hail somewhat damaged the crop in places, the climatic conditions in the important wheat-growing districts were on the whole favourable. In the Narsinghpur district the outturn was 135 per cent, the best for the past ten years. Jubbulpore and Mandla had a full crop. In Damoh, Seoni, Betul, Balaghat, Drug and Raipur the yield ranged from 100 to 115 per cent. Elsewhere the crop suffered from hail and want of sufficient moisture, and the yield did not exceed 93 per cent of a normal crop. For the Central Provinces the outturn was 95 per cent against 70 per cent of a normal crop in the year preceding, and for Berar 67 per cent against 47 per cent.

Gram.—Gram, mostly sown as a mixture with wheat, fared particularly well. Narsinghpur reported a yield of 130 per cent and Mandla a full crop. The outturn in Saugor, Jubbulpore, Balaghat, Drug and Raipur ranged from 100 to 112 per cent. In other districts, where the climatic conditions were somewhat less favourable, the estimate was not higher than 90 per cent of the normal; but the outturn for the Province as a whole worked out to a normal crop, which was large by one-fourth than the yield of the previous year.

Linseed.—Linseed did fairly well in the most important districts. The outturn varied very greatly from district to district. Damoh, Jubbulpore, Mandla, Narsinghpur, Bhandara, Balaghat and Raipur all reported a normal or more than normal yield; elsewhere, short rain, frost, cloud and hail did varying amounts of damage, and in Hoshangabad and Nimar the outturn was particularly poor. The provincial outturn was not much short of normal and over double that of last year.

3—HORTICULTURE

HORTICULTURE

[Report on the management of the Provincial and District Gardens of the Central Provinces for the year 1908-09.]

Provincial Gardens.

94. The monsoon was favourable for horticulture and the occasional showers received during the hot months were beneficial to the cultivation of

HORTICULTURE

flowers and vegetables. At the Maharajbagh greater attention was paid to seed selection for distribution and better results were obtained, especially in the case of vegetables of which there was a good supply throughout the year. Fruit trees gave an average outturn, except the mango, which failed. There was a further increase in the number of plants distributed to private persons, to other public gardens and to institutions, 12,478 plants being sold and distributed during the year as against 11,806 last year. A course, extending for three years, to train boys in gardening was opened at the Maharajbagh during the year. At Telinkheri the gardens were kept in remarkably good condition, but the outturn of vegetables was poor, and the failure of the mango crop caused a decrease of income. At Pachmarhi, the season was favourable for horticulture, and the yield of flowers and fruit was good. English vegetables were produced in sufficient quantity to meet all public demands, and a large quantity of country vegetables was grown at the Pagara garden and sold in the Cantonment market. Hybrid raspberries, a green banana from Bassein, various varieties of potatoes and tomato and a new Japanese salad plant were successfully introduced. During the year a small area lying between the Victoria Technical Institute and the Agricultural College Hostel was laid out as a Botanical garden, and plants representing some 33 natural orders were arranged systematically.

District Gardens.

95. In the district gardens vegetables and fruit gave large outturns, and the receipts rose from Rs. 7,402 in 1907-08 to Rs. 8,729 in 1908-09. The expenditure rose from Rs. 18,815 to Rs. 33,328, a rise due chiefly to the fact that five gardens came under the control of the Agriculture Department for the first time during the year. In the flower show held in connection with the Central Provinces and Berar Exhibition, the exhibits from the few gardens which came forward were excellent.

Court of Wards Gardens.

96. Gardens were maintained by the Court of Wards Estates in Wardha and Chanda, but there was none in Hoshangabad during the year under report. The reports from these gardens were not good. In Wardha no record of expenditure and receipts was kept, while the Ahiri Court of Wards reported a deficit.

FORESTS

4—FORESTS.

[Reports from the Conservators of Forests of the Northern, Southern and Berar Circles, on the Forest Administration in the Central Provinces, for the year 1908-09 and Resolution thereon.]

Forest areas.

97. By disforestment for extension of agriculture, mainly in the Chanda district, the area of State forests has been reduced by 76 square miles, and a nominal reduction of 5 square miles is due to correction of previous records. At the end of the year the total area of the State forests was 21,921 square miles. By re-classification, and by afforestment of various small tracts aggregating 4 square miles, the area of permanent reserves has been augmented by 25 square miles and now forms 88½ per cent of the total area at disposal of the State in the Central Provinces. This percentage is not expected to fall to any considerable extent, although it is likely to undergo some modification by further re-classification, and by disforestment now contemplated in Berar of small plots of C Class forest. Forest settlement affecting a number of small plots in various divisions of the Northern and Southern Circles has been completed in respect of 7 square miles and is still in progress in regard to 18 square miles. After a long period of tentative and experimental management the question of limiting and defining the extension of agriculture and the exercise of forest concessions in the C Class forests of the Melghat Taluk in Berar, has assumed pressing importance. Mr. Nelson, Assistant Commissioner, has been recently appointed to carry out the settlement on lines prescribed by the Chief Commissioner.

Demarcation and Survey.

98. The outlay on demarcation amounted to Rs. 21,270 during the year, of which 80 per cent has been expended on maintenance of boundary marks. This work extended to 72 per cent of the total length of artificially marked boundaries and cost about 12 annas per mile. New demarcation to the extent of 38 miles, necessitated by changes due to afforestment and disforestment and demarcation of forest villages in the Northern and Southern Circles, was effected

at a cost of Rs. 27 per mile. In Berar, the original demarcation by means of revenue field-survey marks was supplemented by pillars and cleared lines to an extent of 268 miles at a cost of Rs. 12 per mile. The total length of forest boundaries in the whole province is nearly 37,000 miles, 92 per cent being artificially marked and the remainder defined by conspicuous topographical features.

Working plans.

99. Definite Working Plans have been sanctioned during the year for an area of 959 square miles, comprising the forests of the Saugor Division and the Motinala forests of Mandla. A revised Working Plan for the Bori forest, 42 square miles, in the Hoshangabad Division has also been sanctioned since close of the year. All these Working Plans pertain to the Northern Circle, where a revised plan for the forests of the Chhindwara Division, 718 square miles, has also been prepared in so far as it has been possible to complete it pending appointment of an experienced Revenue Officer whom the Chief Commissioner has decided to associate with the Working Plans Officer during the field season of 1910 to report whether the Working Plan is so framed as to meet the agricultural demand. In the Southern Circle a revised plan for the Bhandara forests (533 square miles) is reported to have been completed. A preliminary Working Plan report for the Dhaba-Ghot forests of the South Chanda Division is also reported as ready for submission. A preliminary report for revision of the Nagpur-Wardha forests is about to be submitted by the Divisional Officer, and work has been in progress also in Bilaspur with a view to preparation of a Working Plan for the forests of that division. Progress has on the whole been made in the Northern and Southern Circles notwithstanding the restricted staff available for duty, but in the Berar Circle there is still room for improvement.

Roads, buildings, tanks and wells.

100. A sum of Rs. 83,618 has been devoted to the construction and maintenance of roads during the past year. Good progress has been made in all Circles, and in the aggregate new roads to an extent of 250 miles have been made at an average cost of Rs. 244 per mile and existing roads of 3,866 miles in total length have been kept in repair at Rs. 6 per mile. A sum of Rs. 79,040 has been laid out on new buildings, 58 per cent of which has been expended on construction of 204 separate quarters for subordinates. Ten rest-houses have been completed and 10 others were under construction, to which 37 per cent of the outlay has been devoted, while 5 per cent has been spent on Divisional head-quarters and miscellaneous minor buildings. On maintenance of existing buildings a sum of Rs. 26,547 has been expended, the aggregate expenditure on new work and repairs amounting to Rs. 1,05,587. The work of constructing tanks and wells has also been actively prosecuted at a cost of Rs. 87,579. Fourteen new tanks and 60 wells have been finished, and 7 other tanks and a number of wells were under construction during the year. The total outlay of the year on roads, buildings, tanks and wells is Rs. 2,76,784. This expenditure is less by only Rs. 64,257 than that incurred in 1907-08 under conditions of abnormal activity for the relief of distress during the time of scarcity, and exceeds the average of the two preceding years 1905—07 by Rs. 1,55,000.

Forest offences.

101. The number of forest offences reported during the year is 8,222 and shows an increase by 20 per cent above the record of 1907-08. A large majority of the offences were of the nature of theft of wood (48 per cent) and of cattle-trespass (45 per cent). It is satisfactory to note that the number of offences relating to forest fires has fallen by 30 per cent and now form only 3 per cent of the total, a result which is attributable to some extent to more careful discrimination in recording offences. The number of cases in which the offenders have remained undetected has also fallen by 7 per cent. For the settlement of cases only 5 per cent of the total number were referred to the Criminal Courts, and convictions were obtained in 93 per cent of the cases in Berar, and in 75 per cent and 77 per cent in the Northern and Southern Circles, respectively. The attention of all Conservators has been drawn by the Local Administration to the advisability of instituting prosecutions against the owners in cases of persistent trespass before taking recourse to other measures, such as increasing the number of cattle-pounds, enhancing the pound fees, and temporarily strengthening the protective staff in localities of habitual trespass.

In the settlement of cases by composition the average amount of compensation realised per person in the Northern and Southern Circles is Rs. 2-11-6 and Rs. 2-12-5, respectively, and ranged in Berar from Rs. 1-2-4 in Buldana to Rs. 4-12-8 in Betul. The high rate in the Betul Division has been explained by the Conservator, and in respect of the heavy compensation exacted in the Melghat in 1907-08, which attracted the notice of the Local Administration, the Commissioner of Berar has satisfied himself that the amounts levied were not incommensurate with the gravity of the offences and the circumstances attending them.

Protection from fire.

102. Great success has attended the fire-conservancy measures of the year in every Circle, and fire has been successfully excluded from 99·2 per cent of the total area under protection. The area under protection has risen by 751 square miles since the end of 1907-08, and now stands at 11,564 square miles embracing 66 per cent of the extent of the permanent reserves, excluding the Berar C Class forests which lie outside the sphere of protection. It is satisfactory to observe that the need for extension of fire-protection is receiving more practical attention in the Northern Circle, where 449 square miles have been added this year, bringing the percentage of permanent reserves under fire-protection up to 44. In the Southern and Berar Circles the protected area has been increased by 131 and 169 square miles, respectively, and in these Circles 78 per cent and 79 per cent of the area of permanent reserves is now under protection. The average cost of protection has risen from Rs. 9-5-1 per square mile in 1907-08 to Rs. 9-9-2 in 1908-09 owing to general increase in labour wages. In the Northern Circle, however, considerable saving has been effected, the cost being reduced by Rs. 1-1-5 per square mile. The total expenditure in the whole province was Rs. 1,10,698, which represents only three pies per acre successfully protected and is altogether insignificant in comparison with the immense benefit conferred by immunity from fire.

Exploitation, sylviculture and management.

103. Increased attention has been paid to operations for improvement of the growing stock by freeing teak and other valuable species from suppression by inferior kinds; by cutting back to the stool malformed and unsound trees of the more important species, and poles and saplings injured by drought and fire; and by cutting climbers and eradicating noxious parasites such as Loranthus. Rs. 34,596 were spent on this work, chiefly in Berar where 97 square miles were dealt with at a cost of about Rs. 180 per square mile. Intensive improvement felling operations were carried out over 13 square miles in the Southern Circle at about Rs. 452 per square mile, while climbers were cut over an area of 221 square miles at a total cost of Rs. 4,277. No extensive works of sowing and planting have been carried out in the Northern and Southern Circles. Of Rs. 5,331, the total expenditure on such works, 70 per cent pertains to the Berar Circle where the major part of the outlay was devoted to the agri-sylvicultural operations in progress for a number of years in the Chirori forest. Progress in extension of systematic methods of treatment continued, greater thoroughness has characterised their practical application, especially in the Southern Circle, where 36 per cent of the exploitation fellings of the year were carried out by the method of coppice with standards, and 3 per cent by improvement felling approximating to that method. In the Northern Circle the advance hitherto made has been much slower. In the Berar Circle half a square mile of *babul* woods has been treated by clear felling followed by artificial regeneration, and about 20 per cent of the exploitation of the year has been carried out by the methods of coppice with standards and of improved felling having the general character of that method. The outturn in 1908-09 of forest produce of every kind shows a considerable decrease as compared with the outturn of the preceding year, chiefly because the liberal concessions and large free grants of wood and minor produce made during the season of scarcity in 1907-08 swelled the outturn of that year far above the normal. The demand in 1908-09 has been below the normal, especially as regards wood and bamboos, in consequence of the inertia habitually manifested during the recurrent inauspicious period of *Singhast*. Free grants of forest produce have been made during the year to an aggregate value of half a lakh of rupees, and the Conservator of Berar estimates the value of the concessions utilised in Berar at Rs. 82,000. The results of the lac industry in Raipur have

again proved financially unprofitable owing mainly to a large fall in the market value of this product, and in no Circle has the income from this source as yet answered expectations. Efforts to develope this industry continue to be made in every Circle. Useful work has continued to be done in the Balaghat Forest School. The maximum number of students that can be accommodated at present is 30, but an enlargement of the school to provide accommodation and training for 50 students is under contemplation in order to admit candidates from Native States in Central India and from Feudatory States in the Central Provinces. This question is at present in suspense pending announcement of the decision of the Government of India regarding the proposal to transfer the training of candidates for Forest Rangerships from the Imperial Forest College to local centres of education.

Financial results.

104. The gross forest revenue for the whole province in 1908-09 is Rs. 21,01,108, which is less than that of 1907-08 by 4 per cent. Of the gross revenue of 1908-09 the Berar Circle has contributed 39 per cent, the Southern 33 per cent, and the Northern 28 per cent, but Berar has yielded 65 per cent of the total surplus which amounts to Rs. 4,38,278. Expenditure on forest works such as roads, buildings and tanks contracted by nearly one lakh of rupees, since the necessity for finding employment for labour brought about by the scarcity had ceased. Sylvicultural improvement accounts however for an increase of Rs. 28,178, since the ordinary operations in this direction expanded, and there was more activity in the preparation of working plans. Making due allowance for the effects of the past season of scarcity and of the restriction in demand during the period of *Singhast*, the financial results of the year 1908-09 are satisfactory.

5—MINES AND QUARRIES

MINES AND QUARRIES

[Report on the working of the Indian Mines Act in the Central Provinces for the calendar year 1908 and Part I of the Statistics of British India.]

Mines under the Indian Mines Act.

105. The number of coal mines worked during the year was eight as against five in the previous year. Three new coal mines were opened in the Chhindwara district, *viz.*, a mine at Jattachappar and the Craddock Colliery on the 1st June and a mine at Bhajipani on the 30th December 1908. There has been a considerable increase in the output of coal during the year, the total quantity extracted being 213,489 tons valued at Rs. 10,23,920, as compared with an output of 134,098 tons valued at Rs. 6,22,502 in the previous year. The mines afforded employment to 2,900 labourers. The increase in extraction has been mainly from the Government Colliery at Ballarpur and the Barkuhi mine worked by Messrs. Shaw, Wallace & Co., the latter of which is now paying very high dividends. The Mohpani Colliery, which has had a somewhat chequered history, had a successful year, and its operations are steadily extending.

Manganese mining.

106. The number of manganese quarries coming within the meaning of Section 3 (*d*) of the Act fell from 34 in the previous year to 27 in the year under report. Four mines in the Nagpur district, two in the Balaghat district and three in the Bhandara district were closed down during the year, and the total number open was thus further reduced to 18 by the end of the year. The output of manganese ore amounted to 360,395 tons. The manganese industry this year suffered considerably from the low prices prevailing in the European market. The wholesale price of the ore at the pit's mouth averaged Rs. 8-13-3 per ton in the Nagpur district and Rs. 7-13-4 per ton in the district of Balaghat, the total value being Rs. 26,44,596. The state of the market led to the closure of those mines which were at a distance from the railway, while some of the smaller ventures, where unscientific workings had been attempted without much capital or expert advice in view of the previous high prices, have been pressed out of existence. Extraction from the larger mines continued without serious diminution, probably largely to meet contracts already concluded. The Tata Iron and Steel Company propose to construct a tramway to diminish the cost of transport, and the Carnegie Steel Company are said to be contemplating measures of the same sort. On the whole the stress of low prices has consolidated rather than impeded the manganese industry, and, if the market improves, there is no reason why there should not be steady progress in the future. Certain

mines, especially those in the Chhindwara district, are producing a high grade of ore, which will no doubt find a steady sale: and the elimination of rash and ill-considered projects is no matter for regret.

Miscellaneous.

107. The number of limestone quarries increased by one. Fuller's earth and iron stone continued to be extracted from the quarries at Tikaria and Jaoli in the Jubbulpore district and white pottery clay and soapstone from those at Tikaria and Bheraghat. Five new mines were opened in the Jubbulpore district, two for bauxite at Tikaria and three for soapstone at Gowari, Lalpur and Sagra. The copper mines at Dharwara and Bhula were not worked during the year. The number of labourers employed in the limestone quarries and the mines for pottery clay, soapstone, iron and bauxite numbered 7,190. There was a decrease in the outturn of Fuller's earth and iron oxide; but the output of pottery clay and soapstone exceeded that of last year by 140 and 451 tons, respectively. There were 26 serious accidents during the year of which six involved loss of life. There was no serious outbreak of any epidemic at the mines, though cholera appeared at two mines, only to be stamped out at once; and the general health and physical condition of the employés was good. The general management and the sanitary arrangements were satisfactory. There were no prosecutions under the Act, but the manager of a limestone quarry at Bargawan in the Jubbulpore district was prosecuted under Section 304-A, Indian Penal Code, in connection with an accident caused by the collapse of a portion of the wall of the quarry, which was said to have been cut at an improper slope. The manager was, however, discharged by the Magistrate on the ground that the immediate causes of the accident were a fall of rain some days previously, and certain blasting operations in an adjoining quarry which loosened the earth of the over burden; while there was nothing to show that the manager was aware that there was anything dangerous in the condition of the quarry.

The year was one of general scarcity and high prices, and of conditions nearly approaching famine in the northern districts. The limestone quarries at Murwara, and to a less extent the Mohpani Colliery, served a useful purpose in employing considerable numbers of casual labourers, and presumably benefited by the extra demand for employment. But it is a notable symptom of the improved conditions of labour resulting from recent industrial development that, notwithstanding the high rates of wages, the mines in other parts of the Province found difficulty in maintaining their labour supply and in some cases had to import labour.

Commercial activity.

108. 346 prospecting licenses and 25 mining leases were taken out during the year, as against 184 and 15 in the previous year. It has been found that numerous applications for prospecting licenses are made on insufficient data and turn out wholly infructuous, and trouble is in this way imposed on Government officers for which no adequate return is received. It is probable that the temporary depression in the industry will automatically reduce the numbers, but the question of the advisability of applying some check to frivolous and ill-considered applications is receiving attention.

MANUFACTURES — 6—MANUFACTURES

[Report on the working of the Factories Act in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1908; and Part I of the Statistics of British India.]

Number of factories.

109. Although 44 factories were brought on the register during 1908 the number actually working remained much the same as in the preceding year, *viz.*, 323 against 327. The increase in the number of registered factories was mainly due to change of classification. That it entailed no corresponding increase in the number working is due to the short cotton crop of both the seasons some portion of which fell within the year. The combination of owners in particular localities in order to restrict working to so many of their factories only as would be to their mutual benefit contributed to this result.

Employees.

110. The total number of operatives employed rose above the numbers reported for 1907; the increase was greater in proportion among the male operatives, while the number of children employed remained stationary. In ten cases convictions were obtained for illegal employment of women and children.

A special enquiry into abuses under the Act in Berar showed that the regulations regarding adult labour were generally observed, but that abuses in regard to the employment of children were more common; the abuses ordinarily consisting in working them for a number of hours in excess of that allowed and in classifying their age incorrectly.

111. The health of the operatives was good everywhere; a result generally attributed to the light nature of the work itself and the good food put within the reach of all by the high wages earned. Sanitary conditions were in most cases satisfactory, and prompt attention was given to defects when inspecting officers drew attention to them. **Health.**

112. The number of accidents increased considerably: of 162 reported 67 occurred in one factory alone, the Gun Carriage Factory at Jubbulpore. As usual, the great majority of the accidents were due to carelessness on the part of the operatives themselves, and this is particularly the case with regard to the Gun Carriage Factory, where the machinery is well guarded and the work supervised by experts. **Accidents.**

113. The rate of wages of the ordinary unskilled hand remained practically unaltered, and fluctuations in the wages paid to skilled labourers were largely due to changes in the staff. **Wages.**

114. The number of inspections showed a very considerable decrease, falling from 393 to 280 during the year. Out of the total number of inspections only 161 were made by the Provincial Inspectors as against 201 in 1907. In Berar, too, where the total number of inspections decreased from 679 to 664, the number of inspections by Provincial Inspectors dropped from 230 to 155. The decrease in expert inspection is ascribed to the demand made on the Inspector's time by boiler testing and inspection which were introduced for the first time during the year. The total number of factories left uninspected in the combined Provinces rose from 12 to 80. **Supervision.**

7—TRADE

TRADE

[Report on the rail-borne traffic of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st March 1909; and Part II of the Statistics of British India.]

115. The rains of 1907 ceased early; the rabi area decreased 28 per cent and outturns were poor. The rains of 1908 were too heavy for Berar, where the kharif area decreased by 74,000 acres and the yield for both the Central Provinces and Berar was only 85 per cent of a normal crop. **Character of the harvest.**

116. The failure of the monsoon of 1907 caused prices, already high, to rise still higher in 1908 and this continued till the end of December. The prices of all food-grains and raw produce became somewhat cheaper at the close of the year, the fall being most marked in the case of rice and gram. **Prices.**

The average prices for the whole year as compared with that of 1907-08 were 18 per cent higher in the case of wheat, 15 per cent in the case of gram, 7 per cent in the case of linseed, 4 per cent in the case of juar, and 3 per cent in the case of rice. The prices of cotton and til fell by 11 and 3 per cent, respectively.

117. The total volume of trade fell by 6 million maunds and the total value by $3\frac{1}{4}$ crores of rupees. The value of both imports and exports decreased by $4\frac{1}{4}$ and $28\frac{1}{3}$ millions. **Total traffic of the year.**

118. The bulk of imports decreased by 217,000 maunds or 1 per cent, and the value decreased by 43 lakhs or 4 per cent. The principal decreases occurred under "Coal and Coke," "Metals," "Railway Plant and Rolling Stock," and "Wood." The quantity of coal and coke imported fell by 183,000 **Imports.**

maunds or 3 per cent, owing to the working of local collieries; of railway plant and rolling stock by 191,000 maunds or 37 per cent on account of the completion of the extensions; and of wood by 163,000 maunds or 50 per cent. There were also decreases in commodities like "Manufactured Cotton Goods," "Spices" and "Sugar." The Provinces imported oils to the extent of 45 lakhs in 1906-07, 49 lakhs in 1907-08 and a little more than 46½ lakhs in 1908-09, and the bulk of imports consisted chiefly of kerosine oil as usual. The imports increased under "Grain and Pulse" by 24 per cent and under "Salt" by 5 per cent. The imports of "Tea" show a recovery, while a rise of 50,000 maunds (31 per cent) is noticed in the import trade of tobacco.

Exports.

119. Exports fell by 19 per cent in weight and by 18 per cent in value. The increasing local demand on collieries left a smaller surplus of coal and coke, which fell by 3 per cent to meet the outward demand. As a natural consequence of unfavourable crops, exports of raw cotton decreased by 741,000 maunds or 20 per cent. Exports of oil-cake declined by 104,000 maunds or 39 per cent and hay, straw and grass by 353,000 maunds or 71 per cent. The unfavourable climatic conditions and consequent poor harvest brought down the export of grain and pulse by 4,789,000 maunds or 61 per cent. The continuous early rain damaged juar considerably and the outturn in the important juar tracts was only 86 per cent of a normal crop and the exports consequently fell by 48 per cent. Owing to the early cessation of rains in 1907 the area under wheat contracted very largely for want of moisture in land and this caused the extraordinary decline of 88 per cent in exports, while (1) gram and pulse and (2) rice fared well—the quantity despatched having increased by 9 and 3 per cent, respectively. Lac fell by 44 per cent, owing to a heavy fall in the price. The dullness of business in the iron and steel industries and the subsequent reduction in the price of manganese reduced the trade in metals by 972,000 maunds or 10 per cent. While there was a rise in the exports of "Hides and Skins," "Oilseeds," "Railway Plant and Rolling Stock," "Salt," "Spices," "Tobacco" and ".Wood". Severe mortality among cattle on account of heavy and continuous rain increased the trade in "Hides and Skins" by 58 per cent. The exports under oilseeds increased by 829,000 maunds or 31 per cent. Exports of linseed fell off by 239,000 maunds or 34 per cent. On the other hand exports under the head "Others" nearly doubled. The large export under this sub-head consisted mostly of cotton-seed which was transmitted in considerable quantities to Bombay Port, chiefly from Nimar, Nagpur and the Berar Blocks. Exports of "Rape and Mustard" rose by 77 per cent. A large quantity of salt was sent to Rajputana and Central India from the Jubbulpore Block and the export of salt rose by 11,000 maunds or 30 per cent. The trade in "Railway Plant and Rolling Stock" and "Tobacco" also showed an improvement of 40 and 32 per cent, respectively.

PUBLIC WORKS

8—PUBLIC WORKS

[Finance Accounts of the Buildings and Roads Branch of the Public Works Department, Central Provinces, for the year 1908-09; and Parts III and IV of the Statistics of British India.]

Imperial Civil Works

Imperial civil works.

120. No Imperial works of any importance were taken in hand during the year. The new Post Office and Postmaster's quarters at Baihar (started in 1907-08), a bungalow for the Chief Superintendent of the Comptroller's Office at Nagpur and quarters for the Postmaster at Jubbulpore were completed during the year under report at a cost of Rs. 2,117, Rs. 11,200 and Rs. 6,811, respectively; and the construction of quarters for the Senior Superintendent of the Office of the Comptroller, Central Provinces, Nagpur, was taken in hand and an expenditure of Rs. 4,900 incurred during the year.

Provincial Works

Provincial works.

121. The total expenditure on Provincial works of all kinds amounted to Rs. 66,00,924, of which Rs. 33,89,883 were spent on original works and the balance devoted to repairs, establishment and tools and plant.

The following were the principal works carried out during the year :—

122. The Office for the Divisional Forest Officer at Chikalda was completed at a total cost of Rs. 13,751 and two rooms were added to the Forest Office at Balaghat at a cost of Rs. 4,984. **Forest buildings.**

123. The construction of an Office for the Commissioner of Settlements at Nagpur was begun during the year, the expenditure incurred being Rs. 19,385 against an estimate of Rs. 1,50,000. The work on the construction of the Tahsil building at Brahmapuri was resumed and an expenditure of Rs. 12,794 was incurred on masonry, wood and iron-work. A sum of Rs. 13,816 against an estimate of Rs. 37,980 was spent on the construction of the new Tahsil building at Saoner. The quarters for the minor Tahsil officials at Garchiroli and certain additions and alterations to the Tahsil building at Akola were completed at a cost of Rs. 7,757 and Rs. 2,404, respectively. The Tahsil buildings at Dhamtari, Mungeli, Hatta and Seoni (Malwa) were improved during the year at a total cost of Rs. 6,516. **Administration Land revenue buildings.**

124. Eleven bonded warehouses, which were in progress in 1907-08, were completed and two (at Dharni and Akot) are in progress; water-pipes from the Municipal main were laid on to the new Distillery building at Seoni, and the construction of quarters for Excise officials and peons at Baihar and for officials at Harsud was begun. **Excise buildings.**

125. Additions and alterations to the North wing of Government House, Nagpur, and certain other miscellaneous improvements to the building were carried out at a cost of Rs. 22,500. The work on the new Secretariat building, which was begun in 1904, was vigorously pushed on and excellent progress was made on all parts of the building. The whole of the brick-work was finished and the outer face of dressed stone completed up to the roof level, with the exception of the gables of the porches and projecting rooms. A very large amount of cut-stone work of an elaborate nature in cornices and mouldings, requiring a considerable degree of skill on the part of the workmen and a large amount of careful supervision, was successfully accomplished by Departmental Agency. Three-fourths of the wood-work in the roof and one-third of the tiling were completed. Seven-eighths of the reinforced concrete in floors and roofs was done. The sanitary fittings and drainage arrangements are well in hand. Good progress was also made with the record-racks, stone floors, doors, windows and other items of the work. The clearing of the site and laying out of the grounds was begun. The total expenditure up to the end of the year was Rs. 6,31,576 against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 8,75,732, the expenditure during the year being Rs. 1,90,028. The wrought-iron railing round the area containing this building, the Civil Court and other Government Offices is also approaching completion, the expenditure on this work to the end of the year being Rs. 52,187 against an estimate of Rs. 52,278. **Residences for Local Governments and Secretariat Offices.**

126. Two residences at Nagpur for Government officers were begun during the year, the outlay on them being Rs. 21,250; while a third was nearly completed, the outlay being Rs. 27,966. **Miscellaneous.**

127. Work on the Experimental Farm at Akola was continued during the year and an expenditure of Rs. 13,871 incurred, while the Rest House at the Farm was completed at a cost of Rs. 6,239. Certain additions and alterations to the Farm buildings at Powarkhera (Hoshangabad) were completed during the year at a total cost of Rs. 21,959, and the construction of a workshop and quarters for blacksmiths and carpenters was put in hand. Some minor improvements were also made to the Farm buildings at Labhandih (Raipur) and to the gardens at Pagara on the Piparia-Pachmarhi road. **Agriculture.**

128. The construction of the additional boarding-house for the High School at Amraoti was continued, the expenditure during the year being Rs. 23,244 against an estimated amount of Rs. 26,507. The Male Normal School at Amraoti, Hostels at Amraoti, Talegaon Dasesha and Yeotmal, and Hostel and Lady Superintendent's quarters at Amraoti, were completed at a total cost of Rs. 31,003, Rs. 27,362, Rs. 11,351, Rs. 10,986 and Rs. 40,704, respectively. The Girls' Schools at Amraoti, Warora, Champa, Patera and Chhota Chhindwara and the **Educational.**

Urdu Schools at Kholapur, Ellichpur City and Anjangaon were also completed. The new High School building at Raipur was continued and an additional building was provided for the Normal School at that place. Some special repairs to the residential buildings occupied by officers of the Educational Department were completed at a total cost of Rs. 8,579.

Law and Justice.

129. The new Circuit House at Mandla was practically completed during the year at a total cost of Rs. 14,125 and quarters for Camp clerks and peons were provided at the Raipur, Saugor, Damoh and Hoshangabad Circuit Houses. The work on the construction of a residence for the Judicial Commissioner, Central Provinces, was begun during the year under report and an expenditure of Rs. 27,915 incurred; certain petty works were done on the bungalows occupied by the Additional Judicial Commissioner and the Commissioner, Nagpur Division, at a cost of Rs. 3,360; the Deputy Commissioner's bungalow at Damoh was improved at a cost of Rs. 16,385 and an expenditure of Rs. 12,102 was incurred on the construction of the Deputy Commissioner's bungalow at Buldana, work having been retarded for want of water. The Commissioner's Office at Nagpur has nearly reached completion, the outlay being Rs. 48,040 against an estimate of Rs. 49,487, the expenditure during the year being Rs. 23,458. The new Civil Court buildings at Hoshangabad and Bilaspur were finally completed at a total cost of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, while the whole of the work on the Civil Court at Nagpur is progressing favourably, the total outlay being Rs. 98,852 against an estimate of Rs. 1,40,763, the amount spent during the year being Rs. 34,036. The work on the new Record-room with racks for the District Court at Nagpur, which was begun in 1906, is now nearing completion. A temporary Judicial Court for the use of Munsiffs was constructed at Wardha at a cost of Rs. 3,556, and the Civil Courts at Daryapur and Buldana were completed during the year. Certain minor improvements were carried out to the District Courts at Narsinghpur, Chhindwara, Khandwa, Hoshangabad, Damoh and Bilaspur at a total cost of Rs. 10,431.

Jails.

130. The rebuilding of a portion of the circumvallation wall of the Bhandara Jail, which collapsed during the monsoon, was in progress, the expenditure during the year being Rs. 1,408. Various minor works on Jail buildings were carried out during the year and new quarters were provided for the Deputy Superintendent of Factories at Jubbulpore.

Police.

131. Police Station-houses at Nandgaon-Kazi, Dindori and Tendukhera were constructed. Station-houses with quarters at Pithora and Parsoria and quarters only at Bijeraghogarh were constructed during the year, the total outlay on all these works being Rs. 41,408. The Police Lines at Ahiri were completed at a cost of Rs. 2,622. The work on the (Reserve) Police Lines at Akola, which was begun last year, is still in progress, the expenditure incurred during the year being Rs. 12,516. A Naka and quarters for the Police at Dharampeth were constructed at a cost of Rs. 6,788 against an estimate of Rs. 9,680, and the work of constructing a second class Police Station-house and quarters at Lanji was put in hand, and fairly good progress made.

Medical. Hospitals, Dispensaries and Asylums.

132. Further extensions to the Lunatic Asylum at Nagpur were begun during the year and good progress was made, the expenditure to the end of the year being Rs. 16,349 against an estimate of Rs. 72,009. Mortuaries, which were begun last year, were completed; the work of constructing one at Sakoli was taken in hand, and considerable improvements were made to the one at Bhandara. Quarters for the Civil Veterinary Assistant at Baihar were taken in hand and Rs. 1,204 spent on the work during the year.

Miscellaneous. Registration.

133. Quarters for the Sub-Registrar at Garchiroli were constructed at a cost of Rs. 735.

Printing.

134. A bungalow for the Superintendent, Government Printing, Nagpur, was completed at a cost of Rs. 12,450.

Public Works Department buildings.

135. The bungalow for the Executive Engineer, Mul Irrigation Division which was begun in 1907, was completed at a total cost of Rs. 19,929 and the quarters for the Sub-Divisional Officers, Manpur, Balaghat and Murtizapur, were also completed at a cost of Rs. 947, Rs. 5,140 and Rs. 2,431, respectively. The additions and alterations to the Club building at Pachmarhi and the Executive Engineer's bungalow at Saugor were completed, and the Public Works Department Subordinates' quarters at Badnur, damaged by fire, were restored.

Communications.

136. The total outlay on communications amounted to Rs. 36,84,467, of which Rs. 21,65,971 were spent on original works and the balance on repairs. The dominant feature of the year's operations in the Nerbudda, Jubbulpore and Chhattisgarh Civil Divisions was the provision of employment on a large scale by the expansion of road-works on the ordinary contract system. Works on the current programme of construction were merged in the general frame-work of the scarcity operations which extended throughout these three Divisions. The total outlay on these works from the beginning to the close of the "Scarcity" period, *viz.*, from the 1st September 1907 to the 31st October 1908, was 18½ lakhs, of which fully two-thirds, *viz.*, 12½ lakhs, which were devoted to "Scarcity" purposes proper, might be regarded as a solid contribution to the Public Works Programme of the next few years, including two lakhs worth of material handed down for the future upkeep of roads. By the end of March nearly 45 miles of new roads in the Tendukhera tract were practically completed as first class, bridged throughout; the Burhanpur-Dhertalai road, including the Dharni extension in Berar, a total length of 50 miles, was opened throughout, half of it being completely metalled and bridged; the whole of the Narsinghpur-Chhindwara road, 80 miles, was completed as first class and the Saugor-Cawnpur road was nearly completed. Important Railway Feeders were constructed, such as the Singaji Railway Feeder and the Khandwa-Pandhana road; the Chhindwara Jagirs were opened out between Harrai and Tamia, and a substantial portion of the fine old Bombay road in the Nerbudda Division was resuscitated.

The widening of the metalled width of the principal roads in the Nagpur district from 9 to 14 feet was sanctioned in 1906. Of this 83 miles have been completed and the remaining 47 miles will be finished during the current year. Sums of Rs. 19,729, Rs. 12,560 and Rs. 13,543, respectively; were spent on the Nagpur-Wari, the Takli Feeder and the Ambajheri-Anjni roads, and all that remains to be done is the consolidation of metal. The construction of a short section of the Nagpur-Kondhali road and the raising of the Saoner-Multai road to Class I are in progress, the expenditure being Rs. 1,930 and Rs. 30,744, respectively. The construction of the Baihar-Topla road was steadily pushed on, and a sum of Rs. 60,000 was spent during the year. Good progress was made on the construction of culverts and causeways on the Nagpur-Chhindwara and Gondia-Arjuni roads the expenditure being Rs. 12,004 and Rs. 15,000, respectively. An expenditure of Rs. 24,686 was incurred during the year on the construction of, and improvements to, roads in the new Civil Station extension at Dharampeth in Nagpur. With the completion of the work on the erection of an iron-girder bridge of 60 feet span in the 15th mile of the Lamtha-Baihar road (which was taken in hand during the year) the work of raising the road in class will be closed. The remainder of the bridging was completed with an expenditure of Rs. 8,500. The work on the Chanda-Allapalli, Allapalli-Sironcha and Allapalli-Muramgaon roads was steadily continued, and an expenditure of Rs. 59,087, Rs. 17,540 and Rs. 13,565, respectively, was incurred during the year. A sum of Rs. 19,750 was spent in completing the earthwork on the Dhamtari-Muramgaon road. The construction of the roads from Dharwa to Karinja, Dharwa to Digras, Digras to Pusad and Sembado to Dharni was in progress during the year, the expenditure being Rs. 6,197, Rs. 13,277, Rs. 1,237 and Rs. 23,097 respectively. Certain improvements to the Gugmal forest and Shegaon-Akot roads were carried out at a cost of Rs. 6,538 and Rs. 4,590, respectively. The metalling of the first three miles of the Wardha-Anji road was completed, and collection for a six-inch coat of metal was made in certain miles, the expenditure during the year being Rs. 11,877. A sum of Rs. 2,077 was spent in the collection of metal, muram, &c., for raising the Wardha-Waigaon road to Class I. Several roads in the Berars were stone-metalled at a cost of Rs. 59,483, and many improvements in the shape of constructing causeways and culverts to several roads were made during the year. A sum of Rs. 3,776 was spent in raising in class miles 8 to 12 of the Basim-Karinja road. Work on the construction of a combined Dâk and Inspection Bungalow at Gondia was started late in the year and rapid progress was made. The Dâk Bungalow at Balaghat was converted into a combined Dâk and Inspection Bungalow with the addition of one more room. Inspection Bungalows at Dharni, Manpur, Jharapapra and an annexe to the Dâk Bungalow at Chikalda were completed, and the work on the Inspection

Bungalow at Muramgaon was continued. A bungalow at Sironcha was purchased for Rs. 4,671 to serve as an Inspection Bungalow.

Arboriculture.

137. A sum of Rs. 55,889 was spent during the year on roadside tree-planting and maintenance of nurseries.

Miscellaneous Public Improvements. Water-supply.

138. A sum of Rs. 28,385 was spent on the extension of the water-supply to the new Civil Station Dharampeth area, at Nagpur.

Scarcity work.

139. It was not till the beginning of the year under report that the need of giving relief to the destitute was felt in the districts of Bhandara and Balaghat, and, with the advent of the monsoon, scarcity works were soon closed. The bulk of the work done was collection of metal on which a sum of Rs. 20,000 was spent. Only two new roads were taken in hand, *viz.*, the Bhiri-Paraswara and the Hatta Railway Feeder roads, the latter being subsequently taken up for completion as an ordinary work. The earthwork was almost completed and the construction of culverts is in hand.

District Funds.

140. The construction of School-houses at Loni, Arvi, Larkhen, Digras and Nandapur was begun and completed, while the one at Pandharkawada was in progress. The work of raising the Ambajheri-Hingna road was continued, and an expenditure of Rs. 22,829 was incurred to the end of the year against an estimated amount of Rs. 47,154. The construction of the Lanji-Bijagarh road and the raising in class of the Wardha-Deoli road were in progress, the expenditure during the year being Rs. 1,900 and Rs. 4,384, respectively. Rs. 2,739 were also spent in raising the 2 causeways in mile 6 of the Akola-Mahan road. The Ramnagar-Ghugri road was nearly completed and fair progress was made on the construction of the Gadarwara-Sainkhera road. The District Board roads from Khamgaon to Shegaon, Khamgaon to Nandura and Nandura to Mothala were maintained during the year at a cost of Rs. 10,180 and subsequently transferred to the District Board.

Quarters for the Veterinary Assistant at Chanda were built at a cost of Rs. 1,373. The work of improving the drainage of Badnera Town was completed during the year at a cost of Rs. 10,277 against an estimate of Rs. 10,430, the outlay during the year being Rs. 2,678.

Contributions.

141. A satisfactory start was made in February 1909 on the Gorewara Water Works at Nagpur, and rapid progress is expected during 1909-10. The expenditure incurred up to the end of the year was Rs. 6,082.

The Victoria Technical Institute at Amraoti was completed and handed over, the expenditure during the year being Rs. 18,729.

The Dispensary at Dhaba, which was begun in 1907-08, was practically completed during the year at a total cost of Rs. 3,100. Quarters for the Hospital Assistants at Gondia and Mul were begun during the year and an expenditure of Rs. 1,344 and Rs. 162, respectively, incurred. Rs. 6,154 were spent in the construction of two School-houses at Tajnapeth in Akola. The extension of the drainage area of the Kalapani tank at Amraoti was completed during the year with an expenditure of Rs. 14,650, the outlay for the year being Rs. 2,207. Certain works in connection with improvements to the filter-beds, &c., of the Fraser Water Works at Wardha were completed at a cost of Rs. 2,888. The important work of the Jubbulpore Water Works extension, which was estimated to cost nearly $3\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs, was practically completed, the outlay during the year being Rs. 68,713.

The Town Hall at Badnur, which was begun last year, was completed at a total cost of Rs. 11,653, and a beginning was made in the construction of a Branch School at Gadarwara.

35. Protective Irrigation Works.

142. Surveys in connection with the Famine Programme were in progress, and the total expenditure incurred during the year was Rs. 55,616.

41. Miscellaneous Railway expenditure.

143. An expenditure of Rs. 942 was incurred during the year on the demarcation of the Khandwa-Akola-Basim Railway.

9—IRRIGATION

[Season and Crop Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for 1908-09, and the Administration Report of the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department for 1908-09, and Part III of the Statistics of British India.]

Area under irrigation.

144. The distribution of the rainfall was more favourable than in the previous year, and consequently irrigation was less practised. The total area irrigated declined by 123,000 acres, or 14 per cent. The Nagpur, Nerbudda and Jubbulpore Divisions indeed showed net increases of 41,000, 7,800 and 1,600 acres, respectively, but the Chhattisgarh Division showed a decline of 173,000 acres, the effect of good rainfall in a rice country where tank irrigation is practised. The area irrigated from tanks (127,000 acres), though 17 per cent short of the previous year's figure, was still 38 per cent in excess of that of the year 1906-07. There was a small increase in well irrigation, especially for garden crops. In Berar the area irrigated rose by 7,700 acres.

Major works.

145. The expenditure during the year on Protective Irrigation Works was Rs. 15,80,253 as compared with Rs. 12,11,788 in the previous year. The grant for the year, Rs. 15,43,000, was thus exceeded by Rs. 37,253. The progress made was good, and would have been still better, if more funds had been available, and operations could have been extended. Of the 18 works under construction, one, namely, the Barera Kalan Tank, in the Jubbulpore District, was a new one. Excellent progress was made on the Ramtek Reservoir Works in spite of an outbreak of cholera and some difficulties with the contractor, and progress was made, as far as funds allowed on the Asola, Ghorajheri, Khairbhandha, Chandpur and Roomal Tanks. The nine Protective Works in the Mahanadi Irrigation Division were completed, and proposals to provide them with additional distributaries to command larger areas were investigated.

All the Protective Irrigation Works are now capable of doing some irrigation, except the Asola Mendha, Khairee and Barera Kalan Tanks, and these three will be ready for irrigation before next rains.

The Magisterial powers conferred on some Irrigation officers, with the object of checking the desertion of coolies from Irrigation Works, had the desired effect, and very little exercise of them was required.

Minor works.

146. The Government grant for the year for Minor Works and Navigation was six lakhs. The amount spent was nearly half a lakh short of the grant, as instructions had been issued to keep down expenditure owing to scarcity of funds. In addition, Rs. 15,357 were spent on these works from contributions, the total expenditure on them being Rs. 5,72,694 as compared with Rs. 5,53,246 during the previous year. There were 67 State Minor Works in progress during the year: most of them were practically finished, and the remainder were well advanced. The 12 grant-in-aid works under construction during the year were practically completed. Five incomplete rabi field embankments were finished during the year and no new ones were begun. It is considered that a sufficient number of these embankments have now been constructed in the Damoh and Saugor Districts, to show the people how to make them. It is therefore proposed to leave further construction for the present to the people. The works were maintained in good order at a cost of Rs. 23,181.

State irrigation works.

147. 34,808 acres were irrigated against 38,745 in the previous year. As the previous monsoon was a much less favourable one than that of the year under report, the smallness of the decline is satisfactory as showing that the cultivators are beginning to realise that irrigation pays them even in normal years. There was no considerable increase in the commanded area during the year, and the water rates were raised; yet the irrigated area was well maintained. A crop rate of Rs. 2 per acre for water on demand has now been established, and is paid freely in most parts of the Province. In Chhattisgarh, where the cultivators enter into agreements to pay on the total rice area commanded, whether they take water or not, the rate is being gradually raised and has now reached Rs. 1-4-0 per acre. The people have now entered into agreements freely at this rate, and those who have not signed agreements are paying Rs. 2 per acre on demand. On Minor Works in Ryotwari Villages, where irrigation is new to the people, the water rates are being gradually increased, and have now reached Re. 1 to Rs. 1-12-0 per acre.

148. These results are already considerably superior to those predicted by many officers in their evidence before the Irrigation Commission, and they indicate that the hopes of the most sanguine witnesses will be fully realised. The Government of India have now accepted the Chief Commissioner's programme for Irrigation Works.

CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR EXHIBITION

10—CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR EXHIBITION.

[The Report on the Central Provinces and Berar Exhibition.]

Organization.

149. An Exhibition was held at Nagpur from 12th November 1908 to 15th January 1909. This was the second in the history of the Provinces, the previous exhibition having been held in 1865. It was originated at a meeting of *influential and representative gentlemen from almost every district in the Central* Provinces and Berar, which was held on 2nd December 1907. A large sum of money was subscribed on the spot and a Committee was formed containing representatives of all the varied interests of the Provinces. Arrangements were greatly facilitated by enthusiastic co-operation between official and non-official members of the committee. The support of the Local Administration was secured. A donation of Rs. 50,000 was promised by Government, Rs. 1,05,000 were subscribed from private sources, and Rs. 25,000 were received as donations from Municipalities and other local bodies. In addition to the above there was the gift of the Diwan Bahadur Kasturchand Daga Pavilion constructed for the occasion at a cost of Rs. 25,000. Government Departments and private firms and individuals gave every assistance, and substantial help was received from District organizations.

Exhibits.

150. The guiding principle of the Exhibition was to place before the public evidence of the condition and progress of Indian industries, to evoke and enlist popular interest and sympathy in articles of local manufacture, to promote and popularise their general use and to suggest the lines of future progress. In accordance with this end, the Exhibition very largely consisted of the products of indigenous art and manufacture and the mineral and agricultural products of the country, but some articles of foreign manufacture, especially machinery, likely to be helpful in promoting and developing Indian industries, were to be found in it. The Exhibition was divided into various sections dealing with Agriculture, Textile Fabrics, Wood and Metal Work, Forest, Mining, Machinery and Education. There was also a Ladies' Section, a Miscellaneous Section and some Loan Collections A part of the ground was devoted to amusements.

The Agricultural Section had a particular interest for a very large proportion of the visitors. The exhibits were divided into three main groups: the first comprised soils and manures, the second formed a collection of various agricultural products, and the third was reserved for implements. In the sheds containing the exhibits of this section were shown specimens of agricultural products, insect pests, maps, diagrams, small machinery and the like: in an open space alongside machinery was shown at work and demonstrations were given of agricultural operations. In the Textile Section the chief features were the fabrics and wire-drawing apparatus from Burhanpur, the dark-coloured heavy check cloths from Saugor and Jubbulpore, the Chanda tassar and silk bordered *saris*, with the *saris* and *pagris* of fine gold or silk bordered cloth from Umrer, Nagpur and Bhandara, besides hand-woven goods from other parts of India. In the Wood and Metal Section the brass and copper work of the *Kasars* of Nagpur, Bhandara and Raipur and the wood-carving of the Maratha districts were especially worthy of notice; while among extra-provincial exhibits the Burmese silver work attracted much attention. In the Forest Section the chief exhibits were timbers (especially teak and sâl, the two most important timber trees in the Provinces), specimens of implements used in Forestry, exhibits of the jungle tribes and sporting trophies. The Educational exhibits comprised specimens of Kindergarten work, Modelling, Drawings, Handwriting, Maps and Globes, Charts, Manual work, School plans and photographs, Books and Sporting Apparatus. The chief features of the Ladies' Section were the hand-made lace and the paintings on glass, silk and satin of the Parsi ladies, embroideries in gold and silver by Mahommedan ladies, and modelling in print and flowers and embroidered pictures by Bengali and other Hindu ladies. The chief classes of exhibits shown by the schools were *kashida*, knitting and bead-work. In most of the sections

considerable sums were realised by the sale of exhibits through the Committee, and the exhibitors themselves sold articles of still greater value independently. The judging of exhibits took place between 21st November and 1st December, and the final allotment of awards was made at the close of the Exhibition.

Incidents of the Exhibition.

151. The chief incidents of the Exhibition, besides the opening ceremony on the 12th November and the Feudatory Chiefs' and Divisional Darbar held on 30th November, were a Handloom Competition on 4th and 5th December, a Military week from 12th to 16th December and an Agricultural week (14th to 19th December). The Agricultural week comprised a cattle show, bullock races and a flower show.

Results of the Exhibition.

152. The utility of the Agricultural Section was obvious. Thousands of cultivators saw improved machines in actual operation and not a few made purchases. The Cawnpore pump, the Harder fodder-cutter, the Nahan sugar-cane mill, among other useful implements, were made known to many who would not otherwise have had a chance of seeing them. Improved methods of rice-transplanting were demonstrated before large numbers of Chhattisgarh cultivators, many of whom expressed their intention of following them in the ensuing year. Explanations of the various pests that injure crops were given to ever new audiences. Cultivators had an opportunity of seeing new crops or new varieties of crops, displayed in a way illustrative of the various points wherein these differed from the products already familiar to them. The section was of help and interest to the agricultural student and to the agricultural experts no less than to the agriculturists themselves. In the Industrial Section too there was much that was of real benefit. The weaver classes were interested in the new loom by the handloom competition. In the Wood and Metal Section much interest of a practical nature was aroused in the wood-carving done in Nagpur and the Maratha country, which it is hoped will lead to an improved demand for such work. The general public were introduced to the numerous and excellent makers of all sorts of iron trunks, despatch boxes, lamps, locks, cutlery and similar ware carrying on their business in all parts of India. In the Miscellaneous Section a good advertisement was obtained for several Indian leather-making firms, and the wares of the Madras Aluminium Company, seen for the first time by most of the visitors, found a ready sale. There was also a display of fine arts—painting, photography and the like—and the exhibits of jewellery were both numerous and remarkable for their workmanship. The Ladies' Section aroused the greatest interest among the ladies not only of the Central Provinces and Berar, but also of other parts of India, and undoubtedly did its part in stimulating the efforts that are being made to widen the interests in life of Indian women.

CHAPTER V

REVENUE AND FINANCE

[Further details and statistics will be found in Part IV of the Statistics of British India.]

GROSS REVENUE

Gross Revenue.

153. The following statement compares the receipts, expenditure and closing balances under the various heads of accounts for the years 1907-08 and 1908-09:—

Heads.	Receipts.		Expenditure.		Closing balance.	
	1907-08.	1908-09.	1907-08.	1908-09.	1907-08.	1908-09.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imperial Revenues (*a*) ...	98,79,732	98,37,639	54,99,183	69,27,012	...	...
Provincial Revenues (*b*) ...	2,14,97,874	2,18,23,084	2,24,24,902	2,49,12,030	48,55,110	17,66,164
Deposits of Local Funds—						
District Fund (*c*) ...	26,91,335	39,66,817	28,34,683	31,65,505	14,86,469	8,01,312
Jaglia and Local Cess Funds (*d*).	...	7,98,750	...	4,85,904	...	3,12,846
Other Funds ...	8,21,226	8,78,225	8,13,319	8,62,474	3,45,469	3,61,206
Municipal Revenues ...	20,65,520	18,88,592	22,34,048	19,42,857	6,50,244	5,95,979
Total ...	3,69,55,687	3,91,93,107	3,38,06,135	3,82,95,782	73,37,292	38,37,507

(*a*) The Imperial Receipts and Expenditure under Protective Works, Public Works and Minor Works and Navigation are included in these figures.

(*b*) Owing to the abolition of the Incorporated Local Funds with effect from April 1908, the transactions of the Inland Labour Transport Fund have been provincialized and those of the Cattle Pounds in Berar, which were shown under Provincial, have been transferred to the District Funds. Similarly, contributions to and from the District Funds, which were shown under adjusting heads, are shown against the respective heads of accounts under Provincial. For the sake of comparison the figures for 1907-08 have been similarly revised.

(*c*) The transactions of these funds were incorporated under the Local Section of the Account before 1st April 1908; but they have since been transferred to "Deposits of Local Funds."

(*d*) As the transactions of these funds were not shown separately before 1st April 1908, the figures for the year 1907-08 are blank.

(*a*) IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE

Imperial Revenue.

154. IMPERIAL REVENUE.—The following statement compares the actuals of the two years 1907-08 and 1908-09. Details relating to the major heads under which striking differences have occurred are given separately:—

Revenue and Receipts.	Actuals.		Expenditure.	Actuals.	
	1907-08.	1908-09.		1907-08.	1908-09.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Land Revenue. { Proper ...	79,93,026	83,15,446	Forest ...	7,91,703	8,73,791
Land Revenue. { Adjustment...	—54,53,010	—56,04,183	Famine ...	1,14,284	11,09,255
Opium ...	4,78,900	4,43,567	Protective Irrigation Work and Minor Works and Navigation (in charge of Public Works Officers).	12,73,936	16,03,434
Stamps ...	13 78,769	14,96,239			
Excise ...	36,49,528	33,07,923			
Customs ...	1,75,944	1,98,419			
Forest ...	11,45,064	10,42,951	Other heads (including Civil Works in charge of Public Works Department).	33,19,260	33,40,532
Tributes ...	1,41,437	2,47,623			
Other heads (including Imperial Public Works Department and Minor Works, &c.).	3,70,074	3,89,654			
Total ...	98,79,732	98,37,639	Total ...	54,99,183	69,27,012

REVENUE

155. LAND REVENUE.—*Imperial share one-half.*—The increase in "Land Revenue-Proper" is due to the realisation in 1908-09 of arrear collections relating to the year 1907-08. Additional transfers to the Provincial Revenues sanctioned by the Government of India for the year 1908-09 account for the increase under "Adjustments."

156. OPIUM.—The fall in the revenue is attributed to the failure of crops and consequent high prices of grain, &c., in 1908-09.

157. STAMPS.—The rise is due to increased litigation owing to the failure of crops and to the general economic development.

158. EXCISE.—The failure of crops, high prices of food and the propaganda of the Temperance movement in some principal revenue-yielding districts of the Province account for the decrease.

159. CUSTOMS.—The prosperous condition of the Mills in these Provinces, especially of those in the districts of Nagpur, Wardha and Akola, accounts for the increase in revenue under this head.

160. FOREST.—The fall is due to a decrease in the demand for timber on account of scarcity, for grass on account of a heavy crop of juari stalks (karbi), and for pit props and sleepers from the collieries, as well as to the cessation of timber operations owing to increased sale of standing coupes.

161. TRIBUTES.—The increase is only a nominal one. The Nandgaon State paid its tribute for 1907-08 in the year 1906-07, whereas the Khairagarh State paid that for 1907-08 in the year 1908-09, which decreased the revenue for 1907-08.

EXPENDITURE

162. FOREST.—The increase is due to the undertaking of more works, such as communications and buildings and demarcation, with a view to relieving distress; to the increased rate of pay of Gazetted Officers, the revision of Office and Subordinate Depôt Establishments, and the grant of grain compensation allowance.

163. FAMINE.—The distress continued for a longer period in 1908-09 than in 1907-08, which accounts for the increased expenditure on Famine Relief.

164. PROTECTIVE IRRIGATION WORKS AND MINOR NAVIGATION (IN CHARGE OF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT OFFICERS).—The rise is due to increased outlay on Works and Irrigation.

(*b*) REVENUE AND FINANCE—OTHER THAN IMPERIAL

165. PROVINCIAL REVENUE.—The following statement compares the actuals of the two years 1907-08 and 1908-09. Details relating to the major heads under which striking differences have occurred are given separately :— **Provincial Revenue.**

Revenue and Receipts.	Actuals.		Expenditure.	Actuals.	
	1907-08.	1908-09.		1907-08.	1908-09.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Opening Balance ...	57,85,727	48,55,110	Land Revenue ...	35,51,474	37,39,467
			Forest ...	7,91,704	8,73,791
Land Revenue { Proper ...	79,93,025	83,15,446	Interest on ordinary Debt ...	86,647	1,40,072
{ Adjustment ...	+54,53,010	+56,04,183	General Administration ...	7,65,433	8,18,364
Stamps ...	13,78,769	14,96,240	Law and Justice—Courts of Law.	21,64,239	25,10,099
Excise ...	36,49,528	33,07,923			
Forest ...	11,45,064	10,42,950	Law and Justice—Jails ...	4,81,132	5,86,089
Registration ...	2,56,018	2,78,272	Police ...	28,10,818	32,25,400
Interest ...	87,520	1,53,838	Education ...	14,18,992	15,89,047
Jails ...	1,81,259	2,16,060	Medical ...	5,28,885	7,18,268
Scientific and other Minor Departments.	52,040	72,746	Scientific and other Minor Departments.	3,65,310	4,80,117
Civil Works—Civil Officers ...	1,65,642	765	Stationery and Printing ...	4,25,166	4,57,595
Do. P. W. D. ...	2,33,889	4,26,771	Civil Works—Civil ..	1,93,423	1,60,389
Other heads ...	9,02,110	9,07,890	Do. P. W. D. ...	59,20,995	66,00,925
			Minor Works and Navigation—P. W. D.	4,80,011	5,57,337
			Other heads ...	24,40,673	24,55,070
Total ...	2,14,97,874	2,18,23,084	Total ...	2,24,24,902	2,49,12,030
Balance of Inland Labour Transport Fund.	9,069	...	Balance of Inland Labour Transport Fund.	12,658	...
			Closing Balance ...	48,55,110	17,66,164
GRAND TOTAL ...	2,72,92,670	2,66,78,194	GRAND TOTAL ...	2,72,92,670	2,66,78,194

166. PROVINCIAL REVENUE.—The variations under the *divided heads* have been explained in Section "(*a*) Imperial Revenues and Finance." Variations under the remaining heads are explained below:—

Registration.—The actuals for 1908-09 showed an increase, as the failure of crops caused more registration to be done. The extension of the Transfer of Property Act to Berar contributed to the increase.

Interest.—The grant of additional loans to cultivators on account of scarcity accounts for the increase.

Jails.—The rise is due to an increase in sales of manufactured articles from the Jails and in purchase of articles by the Supply and Transport Department.

Scientific and other Minor Departments.—The increase is due to the bringing of more areas under experimental cultivation and to a rise in the revenue yielded by them and to the transfer to this head in 1908-09 of the receipts on account of Steam Boiler Inspection fees which were shown under "XVII—Police" in the previous year.

Civil Works—Civil.—The actuals for 1907-08 included contributions paid to the Provincial Revenues by the District Funds which ceased with effect from the 1st April 1908.

Civil Works—Public Works Department.—Higher receipts on account of sale of produce (especially of coal purchased by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway), ferry revenue and rents of buildings explain the increase in the revenue for 1908-09.

167. PROVINCIAL EXPENDITURE.—The differences under the heads detailed in the above statement are explained below:—

Land Revenue.—The increase is mainly due to (1) the revision of the cadre of the Executive Extra-Assistant Commissioners, Naib-Tahsildars and Revenue peons, (2) the grant of travelling allowance to Tahsil peons, (3) grant of bonus of pay and grain compensation allowance, (4) larger settlement operations undertaken in 1908-09, and (5) the revision of the Halkabandi in Balaghat and Nagpur districts.

Forest.—The increase has been explained under "(*a*) Imperial Revenues and Finance."

Interest on ordinary Debt.—The grant of additional loans to cultivators on account of scarcity accounts for the increase.

General Administration.—The increase is mainly due to (1) Senior officers being on duty as Secretaries, (2) the deputation of an officer on special duty in the Secretariat for a longer period, (3) the organization of the Financial Commissionership, and (4) the fact that all the Divisional Commissioners were members of the Covenanted Service in 1908-09, whereas in 1907-08 one of the Commissionerships was held by an Uncovenanted Officer.

Law and Justice—Courts of Law.—The increase is mainly due to the revision of the cadre and the pay of the Munsiffs and the revision of the Process-serving Establishment owing to the separation of the Executive and Judicial functions. The revision of the Executive Provincial Civil Service, increased expenditure on diet-money and travelling expenses of witnesses in Criminal cases, and grant of travelling allowance to menials contributed to the increase.

Law and Justice—Jails.—The increase is due partly to a rise in expenditure under "Dietary charges" owing to the high prices of food prevailing and the increased population in the Jails; and partly to extended purchases of raw material for the manufacture of cloth for the uniforms of Police Ferry Jaglias and prisoners in the Jails, and for the fulfilment of the contract for supply of cloth to the Supply and Transport Department.

Police.—The revision of Police Force and Office Establishment, the grant of horse allowance to Police Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors, the grant of grain compensation allowance and bonus of pay, and the non-adjustment of the share payable by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway on account of Railway Police, are chiefly responsible for the increase under this head.

Education.—The increase is attributed to (1) the appointment of two additional Deputy Inspectors and their establishment, (2) the revision of the pay and number of teachers, (3) the provincialization of certain Middle and

Primary Schools, (4) the grant of more contributions to the District Fund, Municipal and European schools, and (5) the grant of grain compensation allowance and bonus of pay.

Medical.—The increased grants paid to the Leper Asylums and Hospitals and Dispensaries, the contribution paid from the Imperial Revenues for sanitation, and contributions paid to Municipalities for plague measures explain the rise under this head.

Scientific and other Minor Departments.—The re-organization of the establishment of the Agricultural Assistants, the grant paid to the Nagpur Exhibition, and the expenditure on account of the officers and establishment employed on Industrial Survey work increased the expenditure in 1908-09.

Stationery and Printing.—Charges on account of carriage of stationery under some large heads of accounts, which were formerly debited to the heads concerned were debited to this head in 1908-09 under the orders of the Comptroller-General; this change and the increased supplies of stationery obtained from the Central Stores augmented the expenditure in 1908-09.

Civil Works—Civil.—Less grants were paid to District Councils in 1908-09, which accounts for the decrease.

Civil Works—Public Works Department.—Increased outlay on buildings and roads and relief works on account of scarcity explain the rise.

Minor Works and Navigation.—The increase is due to augmented expenditure on Irrigation works.

168. LOCAL FUNDS.—No Local Funds are incorporated in the accounts with effect from April 1908. The District Funds and the Inland Labour Transport Funds, the transactions of which were treated as Incorporated Local Funds prior to the above date, no longer appear as such; the former having been treated as Deposits of Local Funds and the latter provincialized with effect from the commencement of the year under report.

The total transactions and balances of the District Funds, Jaglia and Local Cess Fund, other Local Funds and the Municipal Revenue are shown under "Gross Revenue."

CHAPTER VI

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES

DETAILS OF CENSUS

1—DETAILS OF CENSUS

169. An account of this subject will be found on pages 31—52 of the Report on the Administration of the Central Provinces for 1901-02 and on pages 22—25 of the Report on the Administration of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts for the same year.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

2—BIRTHS AND DEATHS

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1908, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

System of registration.

170. During the year no change was made in the system of registration of vital statistics. The labour and ingenuity expended in compiling, tabulating and analysing the statistics dealing with the causes of mortality and its incidence in town and country lead at the best to very unreliable results. With the present reporting agency or with any agency that can be thought of as possible in the near future, it is unreasonable to expect any but a very low standard of discrimination in respect of cause of death. But there is no reason why there should not be very much greater accuracy in the reporting of the actual numbers of births and deaths. As to the reporting of cause of disease, though little general improvement can be expected, it appears that there are distinct differences of standard between district and district. Several Civil Surgeons have endeavoured to educate the village-officials by the issue of simple descriptive leaflets.

Births.

171. The total number of births registered during the year was 633,575, yielding a birth-rate of 52·84 per mille against 52·46 in 1907. The birth-rate was the highest recorded for 26 years and was higher than in any other Province. Male births exceeded females by 4·03 per mille, and the rural birth-rate was in excess of the urban by 13·28 per mille. In the urban areas the smaller towns recorded higher birth-rates than the larger.

Deaths.

172. The year 1908 was a year of universal high prices and of scarcity which in some of the northern districts approached famine conditions. It might well have been expected that these conditions would have been reflected in the vital statistics, but so far is this from being the case that the death-rate fell from 41·70 in 1907 to 38·12 in 1908. The climatic conditions of the year were not unfavourable, and cholera, which is generally so destructive in a year of scarcity, fortunately left the most affected districts practically untouched. The northern districts did indeed share to some extent in the visitation of malarial fever from which all Northern India suffered in September and October, but though the death-rate rose very rapidly in some districts, the epidemic never attained anything like the severity that it reached in the more distressed parts of the United Provinces.

Chief diseases.

173. The year was comparatively free from epidemic disease. Plague was mainly confined to the Berar Division, whence however it spread into the Betul District hitherto immune. The total mortality was the lowest since 1903. Cholera appeared in nearly all districts, but was not very destructive, except in the Chhattisgarh Division and in the Nagpur District. Small-pox was widely prevalent, especially in Chhattisgarh. The figures are probably exaggerated, since many deaths attributed to small-pox have been found to have been due to measles or chicken-pox. But after all allowances are made the total was excessive: the difficulties which were thrown in the way of the Vaccination Department by the epidemic of plague and the suspicious attitude of the people which resulted from earlier plague measures, have led to a distinct lowering of the standard of protection, and there is much lee-way which should now be made up.

174. The measures adopted for meeting the cholera epidemic were as usual the issue of medicines with the aid of the vaccination staff and the disinfection of the sources of water-supply by the use of permanganate of potash. The objections to the treatment of wells with permanganate of potash which resulted from foolish or malevolent rumours spread in the early days of plague measures seem now to have disappeared. As regards plague there is much evidence of the steady breaking down of prejudice against reasonable measures. The plague preventive measures of rat-destruction, evacuation and inoculation continued. The number of rats destroyed in the course of the year was 467,721, but this method of combating plague is not universal owing to religious prejudices. Evacuation was freely resorted to, except when the weather was unfavourable, and facilities in the way of hutting materials were provided by local bodies. Inoculation is now in many places welcomed and even sought and much good work was effected in this direction, not only by the Medical Officers of Government, but also by private practitioners, which is a most welcome sign. **Special measures.**

3—EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

[Report on the Inland Emigration of the Central Provinces for the year ending 30th June 1909, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

175. The improvement in recruiting, which was noticed in the previous year, has been sustained, a state of things which may be attributed to the continuance of high prices as a result of the scarcity of 1907-08. The number of coolies recruited rose largely in the Jubbulpore District, which alone contributed considerably more than half the total number of emigrants from the whole Province; recruiting was most brisk during the first half of the year, while that district, in common with the other northern districts, was still feeling the effects of the scarcity. In the Chhattisgarh Division, on the other hand, there was a considerable decrease in the extent of emigration due to the prevalence of better agricultural conditions, and the consequent prosperity of the coolie class. The total number of labourers recruited from the Provinces as a whole was slightly less than last year, *viz.*, 6,364, of whom 4,036 were males and 2,328 females, as against 6,447. The majority of coolies were recruited by garden-sardars. **Emigration.**

176. The accommodation provided for coolies was satisfactory, and the depôts and rest-houses were regularly inspected. The health of the coolies was uniformly good throughout the year, and there was no outbreak of epidemic disease in any depôt. **Health of Emigrants.**

177. Irregularities in recruiting were, as in the previous year, few in number. In the Bilaspur District the Superintendent had to refuse to renew the license of one of the contractors as he had dealt with unlicensed recruiters, and the certificates of four garden-sardars were cancelled. In the Jubbulpore District there were three prosecutions for illegal recruiting and wilful misdescription under Sections 164 and 165. The licenses of one contractor and 12 recruiters were suspended in the same district pending enquiries into complaints against them for illegal recruiting and a variety of other malpractices. In the Mandla District a case under Section 170 (*b*) and (*c*) was instituted agaist a garden-sardarin, and a warrant was issued for her arrest. **Working of Act VI of 1901.**

178. The total receipts from fees amounted to Rs. 3,354. Rs. 2,004 were received on account of the registration of labourers and Rs. 1,350 on account of license fees. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 883-13-8, which sum represents the pay and allowances of the Registration Clerks, and a few fees paid to Civil Surgeons for the medical examination of coolies. **Financial.**

179. 86 coolies and four dependants were despatched to the Colonies during the year by two head recruiters working in Jubbulpore. **Emigration to the Colonies under Act XXI of 1883.**

4—MEDICAL RELIEF

[Annual Notes on Hospitals and Dispensaries in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1908, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

Number of Dispensaries.

180. The total number of dispensaries in the Central Provinces at the close of the year was the same as in the preceding year, *viz.*, 269, of which 31 were supported by the State and 152 from Local Funds, the rest being either private or State aided institutions. Eight new dispensaries were opened during the year and eight dispensaries were closed. None of the dispensaries were reclassified during the year.

Number of patients.

181. The total number of patients treated at the various dispensaries rose by 30,795 (984 in-door and 29,811 out-door). The proportion of adult females treated (about one female to every three male adults among both Hindus and Muhammandans) was satisfactory.

Private Dispensaries.

182 Private dispensaries rose in number from 48 to 50 and continued to do good work. 23 of these were maintained by Feudatory States, 21 by missionary bodies, and six by private individuals. The total attendance at these institutions was 328,152 or 49,784 fewer than in the preceding year, the decrease taking place at the dispensaries maintained by the States.

Relative frequency of diseases.

183. Malarial fevers, skin diseases, ulcers, eye affections and diseases of the respiratory and the digestive systems were the ailments from which relief was chiefly sought. Tubercular disease was credited with 1,900 cases, but the figures cannot yet be considered a reliable index of the extent to which this affection exists.

Surgical operations.

184. The total number of operations performed during the year was 44,671, or 2,879 more than in the preceding year. Of these 1,858 operations were of the more important kinds, including 1,030 extractions of cataractus lens.

Income.

185. The total receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 4,84,758, or Rs. 93,810 more than in the preceding year. The increase was shared by all the heads of income excepting subscriptions from Europeans. Even under this head there was a real increase if the special donation of Rs. 5,000 from Mr. Brittain Jones is excluded from the year 1907. The contributions from natives showed an increase of Rs. 7,286. All the Berar districts showed an increase on last year's figures, but still more might have been expected from this wealthy division. Where decreased subscriptions were received the cause was the recent scarcity which interfered with the realisation of malguzari and arrear subscriptions.

Expenditure.

186. The total expenditure was Rs. 4,40,824, or Rs. 57,786 more than in the year previous, but the year closed with a cash balance of Rs. 2,53,785.

5—TREATMENT OF THE INSANE

[Triennial Report on the Lunatic Asylums in the Central Provinces for the year 1906—08, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

Numbers and health.

187. The total number of inmates of the Nagpur and Jubbulpore Asylums during the year was 391, or five less than in the preceding year: the number of criminals was the same as in the previous year. The admissions and discharges numbered 89 and 50, respectively.

During the triennium ending 1908 there has been a tendency to an increase in the number of admissions in both Asylums, and this is partly due to high prices and hard times, when poor families find it difficult to support the burden of insane relatives, and partly, it may be, to a weakening distrust of Asylums. The health of the lunatics at Jubbulpore was good, but during the triennium there were 75 deaths in the Nagpur Asylum. Of these no less than 20 were due to old age debility: the large number of deaths cannot be ascribed either to want of attention or to any defect of situation. The Asylum was frequently inspected by the visitors who include two Medical Officers among their number.

TREATMENT OF THE INSANE

188. The causes of insanity are now better ascertained than was formerly the case, but the information obtained still leaves much to be desired. There are many cases in which the history is not traceable, but there are others in which sufficient trouble is not taken to ascertain it. **Investigation of causes.**

189. With high prices of food-grains, and an enlarged and better paid establishment of Asylum attendants, the total expenditure rose from Rs. 48,282 in 1907 to Rs. 61,433 in 1908. The incidence of expenditure in both the Asylums together was Rs. 113, the highest recorded during the last six years, and was due chiefly to increased diet charges. **Expenditure.**

190. The chief occupation of lunatics at Nagpur was work on the farm dairy and garden. A few were employed in cooking and weaving. The females were engaged in cleaning and grinding corn. At Jubbulpore gardening, cooking, weaving clothes and blankets formed the chief occupations. It has been decided to abolish the Asylum at Jubbulpore and to transfer all the lunatics to Nagpur as soon as the necessary additions to the institution at Nagpur are completed. **Industries and improvements.**

6—SANITATION

SANITATION

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1908, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

191. During the year the catchment area of the Kalapani tank at Amraoti was extended at a total cost of Rs. 1,28,000, and much progress was made in the Jubbulpore Water-Works extension, which was sanctioned during 1907 at an estimated cost of Rs. 3,23,258. In connection with the Gorewara tank water-supply of Nagpur town survey and an approach road have been completed, the total expenditure incurred being Rs. 7,000. In Khandwa the flood escape and regulator on the Ajanti feeder channel were completed, and some new fire hydrants and meters were provided in Burhanpur town. The construction of drains at Badnera, which remained incomplete last year, was completed guring the year at a total cost of Rs. 10,277. The construction of the side drains in certain localities of Jubbulpore city, which was begun last year, was practically completed this year. **Chief sanitary works.**

192. A large number of petty works were carried out by the various municipalities, but only moderate progress was made in the large scheme of urban sanitation which was inaugurated during the year with the grant of two lakhs made by the Government of India. The intimation of the grant was received too late in the year for the whole amount to be spent within the year as it was considered inadvisable to make grants for drainage schemes (the most crying need) which had not been examined and passed by experts. Grants amounting to Rs. 78,500 were made for the opening up of congested areas in Raipur and Hoshangabad, for various sanitary improvements in Drug and also for the acquisition of land for plague camps and for miscellaneous sanitary improvements in Nagpur. A Sanitary Engineer was employed in working out or advising upon drainage schemes for various towns, and there will soon be a variety of useful projects ready for the consideration of the Sanitary Board, the reconstitution of which in a more effective form is being proposed to the Government of India. The result of the scarcity of 1907-08 has been temporarily to cripple Provincial finances, and it may not be possible immediately to supplement the Imperial subvention to the extent necessary to finance all the schemes that deserve support. But there is hardly any object on which funds when available can more usefully be spent than the improvement of the conditions of town life, and the Administration is committed to a liberal policy in this matter. **Municipal sanitation.**

193. During the year the provisions of the Village Sanitation Act were extended to two villages in the Chanda District, and were not withdrawn from any village. The meetings of the Sanitary Board were held at the head-quarters towns of 14 districts. Several petty works in connection with the improvement of water-supply, conservancy, roads and cleaning of village sites were carried **Rural sanitation.**

out under the direction of the Sanitary Board and paid for from funds raised under the Mukaddam Rules and from Town Funds or were executed by private persons at their own cost. The reconstitution of the Sanitary Board is still under consideration.

7—VACCINATION

[Notes on Vaccination in the Central Provinces for the Season 1908-09, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

General record of vaccination.

194. The total number of operations performed, including dispensary vaccination, rose from 599,247 in 1907-08 to 639,647 in 1908-09, and the average number of operations performed by each vaccinator was 2,101, or 79 more than in the preceding year. The increase in the total number of operations is attributed partly to the inclusion of the statistics of the Feudatory States of Jashpur, Sirguja and Korea and partly to the good work done by some of the vaccinators in the districts of Jubbulpore, Yeotmal, Akola, Buldana, Saugor and Nimar. The percentage of success was returned as 74·99 in re-vaccination and as 99·10 in primary vaccination. The verifications by Assistant Superintendents and Civil Surgeons indicate that the work done by vaccinators in primary vaccination was satisfactory. As regards re-vaccination, since the estimate of the success depends very much on the interval that has elapsed between the re-vaccination and the inspection, the results recorded by the vaccinators may be regarded as fairly satisfactory, though in some districts there is still room for improvement.

Vaccination in municipalities.

195. The provisions of the Vaccination Act were not extended to any more towns during the past year. Of the 24,897 children under one year of age available for vaccination in the municipal towns 22,831, or 91·70 per cent were successfully vaccinated.

Mortality from small-pox.

196. The mortality from small-pox was 0·69 per mille of population, or 0·25 more than in the preceding year, and the disease was prevalent in the Chhattisgarh Division.

Lymph.

197. Of the total operations 99·89 per cent were done with glycerinated lymph, and the percentage of success obtained from it was 93·11. Arm-to-arm vaccination is still practised in Chanda, Raipur, Drug and Buldana, but it is hoped that the practice will be discontinued in these districts also.

Expenditure.

198. The expenditure on vaccination in the Khalsa rose during the year from Rs. 62,925 to Rs. 65,995. The increase occurred in the pay of the establishment owing to the payment of compensation for dearness of grain and to the appointment of two additional vaccinators. The average cost of each successful case was, however, the same as in the previous year, *viz.*, two annas. In the Feudatory States the total cost rose from Rs. 5,005 to Rs. 6,488, and the average cost per successful case from Re. 0-1-3 to Re. 0-1-4. The increase is chiefly due to the inclusion of the pay of the staff working in the three States of Jashpur, Sirguja and Korea.

CHAPTER VII

INSTRUCTION

1—GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

199. An account of this subject will be found at pages 118 to 124 of the Report on the Administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1901-02 and also at pages 80 to 83 of the Report on the Administration of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts for the same year.

2—EDUCATION

EDUCATION

[Report on the State and Progress of Education in the Central Provinces for the year 1908-09 and Part VII of the Statistics of British India.]

Number of schools and scholars.

200 The total number of educational institutions of all kinds during the year 1908-09 was 3,651, or 161 more than in the preceding year, and the number of s holars rose from 258,308 to 276,700. As in the preceding year, the increase took place chiefly in boys' Primary Schools. Of the total number of pupils under instruction, 25,834 were girls and 250,866 boys. About four-fifths of this number were under tuition in Primary Schools. The percentage of scholars to children of school-going age stood at 13·4 or nearly one per cent higher than in 1907-08. The rise in the number of scholars of backward communities, such as Gonds and other aborigines, was phenomenal, and the prevailing prejudice against the admission of low castes into ordinary schools did not prevent an increase in the number of students of this class in the Nagpur and Berar Circles.

Features of the year.

201. The general conditions of the year were not altogether favourable to the progress of education, but in spite of plague and scarcity no serious dislocation of business was occasioned. As an outcome partly of the lowering of fees and partly of the general advance in public opinion, requests, many of which could not be granted for want of funds, were constantly preferred for the opening of new schools and for raising the grade of existing schools, and there was a marked increase in the fervour with which primary education was received in rural tracts. The improvement of existing schools in staff accommodation and equipment are, however, matters requiring still more instant and constant attention than the establishment o' new schools. A satisfactory feature of the year was the progress made in Muhammadan education; and another matter worthy of remark was the increased attention paid to physical training in schools and colleges. Several medals were awarded to Central Provinces schools at the Nagpur Exhibition, of which the Educational exhibit was a very interesting portion. Breaches of discipline, due to participation by teachers and students in political movements, were neither so numerous nor so culpable as in the past. Certain so-called "national" schools were found to be essentially seditious, and collapsed when an investigation of their nature was taken up. A sign of the times was the increased enthusiasm with which the King-Emperor's birthday was celebrated in schools of all grades.

Expenditure on education.

202. The total expenditure on education in British Territory amounted to 28 lakhs, or about 4 lakhs more than in the preceding year. The average cost of educating each pupil rose from Rs. 7-9-8 to Rs. 7-12-1. Of the total expenditure nearly 36 per cent was from Provincial and Imperial Revenues and 42 per cent from District Funds, the balance being from Municipal Funds (5·65), fees (6·29) and other miscellaneous sources (10·47). In Feudatory States the expenditure from all sources rose by over Rs. 13,000. District Funds spent as much as could reasonably be expected on education, or even more, but, on the other hand, the educational expenditure of Municipalities was in many cases inadequate, especially in Berar.

University education.

203. The number of Arts Colleges in the Central Provinces was four, the Victoria College of Science being established as a separate College and affiliated to the University of Allahabad during the year. The question of the affiliation of the St. Francis de Sales' College to the Allahabad University is still unsettled. The results of all collegiate examinations were satisfactory, and the Victoria College of Science succeeded in regaining the ground lost in the previous year. There is a growing unwillingness on the part of the Central Provinces students to risk the uncertainties of the practical examinations held by the Allahabad University in Science, but it is hoped that the satisfactory success in the B. Sc. Examinations will re-assure the hesitating candidates. The number of students at the colleges showed a further rise. With the exception of the Victoria College of Science, the Laboratory of which has recently been completely equipped, the collegiate buildings remain practically the same as last year But the removal of the Morris College to a better site and the demolition of the obstructing premises in front of the Hislop College will shortly be effected. Administrative sanction was accorded to plans and estimates amounting to Rs. 3,36,890 for the construction of buildings for the Government Arts and Training Colleges at Jubbulpore.

Secondary education.

204. During the year the institutions imparting secondary education numbered 442 with 52,268 pupils, as compared with 421 schools and 48,635 pupils in the preceding year. The results of the Matriculation Examinations were poor, particularly for schools at Divisional Head-quarters. In the High School Scholarship Examination 83 out of 172 candidates were successful, and in the promotion examination to the High School (Middle School Examination) 1,307 boys passed out of 2,092 who appeared. During the year the Government of India accorded their sanction to the long-pending scheme of the School Leaving Certificate Examination, the details of which are now being worked out. In Anglo-Vernacular, Vernacular Middle, and Primary Schools the curricula, which were found to be unpopular, were subjected to careful examination and were revised, but the effects of the change will take some time to manifest themselves as new text-books will have to be provided. Satisfactory progress was made with the necessary extensions and improvements to High School buildings, but a more urgent demand is the provision and equipment of science laboratories in connection with the School Leaving Certificate Examination, and an expert officer was deputed to ascertain the requirements of each school in this respect. The staff in secondary institutions was augmented wherever necessary, but any general revision must await the orders of the Government of India on the scheme for the improvement of secondary education.

Primary education.

205. There were 3,179 Primary Schools in the Province, imparting education to 222,756 pupils In some of the districts the pay of the masters in Primary Schools was improved, but in many, notably in the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda circles, very little was done in that direction. In the Nerbudda circle the improved pay was not fully allowed owing to want of funds. 103 new buildings in connection with Primary Schools were erected in the province. Some were erected in each circle, except in the Chhattisgarh Division, where no new building was constructed and only nine existing ones were improved.

Training schools.

206 The proposals for the improvement of the training of teachers for Middle and High Schools form part of the scheme for secondary education which is at present pending with the Government of India. In order to overcome the deficiency of trained teachers in Primary Schools a scheme was formulated by which it is expected that there will be not only a larger outturn from the Normal Schools but also an improvement in the quality of the candidates for these schools. This scheme, which involves the establishment of two new Normal Schools and the considerable extension of an existing one with a large amount of non-recurring and recurring outlay, will take some time to get into full swing. The number on the roll at the Female Normal School at Amraoti has increased, but the number at Jubbulpore shows a marked decline. An excellent hostel has been constructed at Amraoti, but, in spite of the efforts recently made and the inducements offered, the Female Normal Schools have not yet attained the desired measure of popularity.

207. During the year three candidates from the Central Provinces were granted the State technical scholarships, one for the study of textile industries, one for the study of leather tanning, and the third for the study of mining. Four scholarships were given to students who joined the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute, Bombay, in the Textile Department, and nine apprentice scholarships to students who joined the Kalabhawan, Baroda, or entered important workshops. At the Final Examination of the Practical Engineering class, Jubbulpore, six candidates were successful out of ten. No change has been made in the Jubbulpore class this year, as the scheme for an engineering school at Nagpur is still in embryo. Not one of the scholarships tenable at the Patna Medical School was taken up, the reason being apparently the unpopularity of the Hospital Assistant service, but it is hoped that, as the pay and prospects of Hospital Assistants have now been ameliorated, the popularity of the service will be restored. The Industrial School at Amraoti was merged in the Amraoti Victoria Technical Institute, which is now at work. The law class at Jubbulpore was abolished, but the Morris College law classes at Nagpur gave satisfactory results. **Technical education.**

208. The number of girls' schools for Natives increased from 275 to 303 and the number of pupils from 14,818 to 16,576. The number of girls reading in boys' schools also showed a considerable increase. The demands of the residents of important villages for the establishment of new schools in their villages are very great, but it is difficult to meet these requirements to the full owing to financial exigencies. Even if the necessary funds were available, the paucity of qualified female teachers would still continue to be a strong barrier to further extensions. **Female education.**

3—LITERATURE AND THE PRESS

[Part VII of the Statistics of British India.]

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS

209. During the year under review 122 books were published as against 65 in the previous year. Of these 42 were in Marathi, 15 in English, 53 in Hindi, two in Sanskrit, one in Tamil, one in Gujrati, two in Hindi-English and six in Sanskrit-Hindi. Forty-one were religious works, ten Poetical, four Philosophical, four Mathematical and Scientific, three Geographical, two Legal, one Political, one Historical and one Dramatic, while the rest dealt with miscellaneous subjects. **Publications.**

210. There were 20 newspapers and periodicals published in the Central Provinces and Berar during the year. None of these had any considerable circulation except the *Hindi Kesari*, a thoroughly "Extremist" paper, which ceased to appear in December 1908, and the *Marwari*, a Hindi paper started in October 1908, which treats chiefly of commercial and industrial subjects and of matters connected with the Marwari community. **The Vernacular Press.**

21 . There are in all 55 Printing Presses in the Province of which 33 are in the Central Provinces and 22 are in Berar. **Printing Presses.**

4—LITERARY SOCIETIES

LITERARY SOCIETIES

212. During the year there were 66 Scientific and Literary Societies in the Provinces as compared with 79 in the previous year. Most of these are subscription libraries and depend chiefly for support on subscriptions from members. In the case of 14 societies, however, the income is augmented by grants from Government and Municipal Funds.

5—ARTS AND SCIENCES

ARTS AND SCIENCES

213. The rearrangement of the exhibits in the Nagpur Museum was continued during the year. Large additions were made to the specimens of animals and birds, and to the collection of coins and clay models. The total number of visitors during the year was 193,866, the daily average being 520 against 339 in the preceding year. The increase was due to the additional attraction of an exhibition in Nagpur. The Raipur Museum, which is financed by local bodies, received more attention than usual, over Rs. 600 being spent on new exhibits. The small Weaving School attached to this Museum trained 28 persons in the use of the fly-shuttle, and it is believed that some of them have made use of their training. The collection of economical products at the Victoria Technical Institute Museum was largely augmented during the year and arranged in good order by the Principal, Agricultural College.

CHAPTER VIII

ARCHÆOLOGY

[For further information, see Archæological Survey of India (New Series), Volume XIX.]

ARCHÆOLOGY.

214. Operations for the preservation and restoration of the Fort wall at Chanda were completed at a total cost of Rs. 23,905, the expenditure during the year being Rs. 2,039. Progress was also made on certain minor works, such as the restoration of the old temple and dharamsala at Lonar, the old masjid at Fatehkhelda and the temples at Neri and Bhatala; and some repairs were effected in the temples at Sirpur, Janjgir, Deo Balode and in certain monuments near Burhanpur at a total cost of Rs. 3,154.

CHAPTER IX

MISCELLANEOUS

1—ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION

ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION

Ecclesiastical.

215. The diocese of Nagpur was formed in the year 1903, and includes the whole of the Central Provinces, Berar, Central India, Ajmere-Merwara, and all stations in Rajputana, except Mount Abu. There were no changes during the year.

2—STATIONERY

STATIONERY

216. The value of stationery supplied for use in Offices and Courts has increased from Rs. 1,38,107 in 1907-08 to Rs. 1,74,224 in 1908-09. The increase is principally under the departmental heads Revenue, Forest, Political, Law and Justice, Police, Medical and Public Works, which account for Rs. 19,802 of the increase in the value of stationery obtained from the Calcutta depôt; the heads Administration, Education, Minor and Incorporated Local Funds show a decrease of Rs. 3,241. The increase is mainly due to the supply of typewriters, drawing paper and materials and tracing cloth. There has also been an increase, from Rs. 27,726 in 1907-08 to Rs. 47,266 during the year, in the expenditure on country stationery, including carriage of forms, the Settlement and Land Records Department alone accounting for an increase of Rs. 20,543. This last excess is due to the cost of printing of forms at private presses having been included for the first time this year in the accounts of the expenditure on country stationery. The net increase under all heads is Rs. 36,117 as against an increase of Rs. 32,147 n 1907-08.

The total value of stationery supplied to Printing Presses in 1908-09 is Rs. 1,43,760 against Rs. 1,20,573 in 1907-08. This net increase of Rs. 23,187 is caused by an increased supply of printing paper and binding materials.

3—GENERAL—MISCELLANEOUS

GENERAL

Registration of rainfall.

217. There were in all 171 rain-gauges in the Provinces, of which 15 are observatories under the control of the Imperial Meteorological Department, 22 are maintained by the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department, 15 are in the Feudatory States, and the rest are under the control of the Director of Land Records. No new stations were established during the year, but two gauges were moved to more suitable sites, with the concurrence of the Director-General of Observatories. All gauges, except four, were inspected during the year, and the defects brought to light were remedied.

Govt. Press, Nagpur :—No. 1574, Civil Sectt.—8-3-10—400.

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES & BERAR

FOR THE YEAR

1909-10

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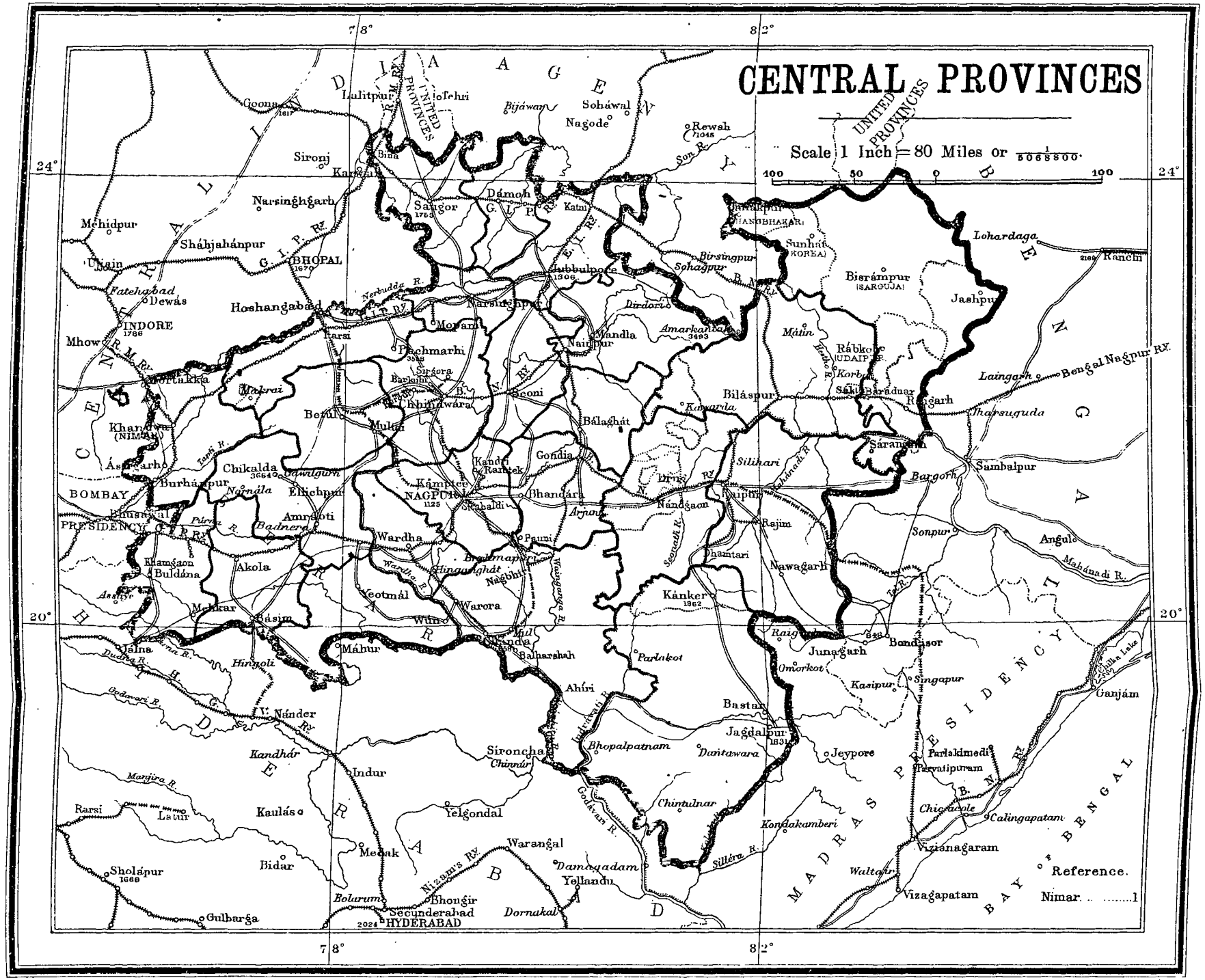

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ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

FOR

THE YEAR 1909-10

PART I

GENERAL SUMMARY

Introduction.

1. The reports on which this review of the administration of the Central Provinces and Berar is based relate to the several different periods specified at the head of each section in Part II. The majority refer to the calendar year 1909, but the official year of some of the principal spending departments and of the local authorities whose accounts are very closely connected with those of Government, coincides with the official financial year ending on the 31st of March 1910. The reports of those departments, in the administration of which the collection and assessment of rents and revenue play an important part, relate to the 12 months ending the 30th of September 1909. The year of the Department of Agriculture is naturally determined by the seasons and ends on 31st of May, while the Forest Department has a year of its own ending on the 30th of June. The various periods of 12 months to which the different sections of this report refer cover therefore in all a period of 21 months, beginning on the 1st October 1908 and ending on the 30th June 1910. In reading the subsequent sections of this report it must be borne in mind that the periods referred to differ and are those specified at the head of each section in Part II, but before proceeding to summarise the information contained in those sections it will be well to give a brief account of the history and the progress of the Provinces during the whole of this period of 21 months.

General.

2. The period opened at the end of a monsoon of very moderate quality following on a year of severe scarcity. The indifferent harvest, the high prices of agricultural produce, and the occurrence of a year of *Singhast*, during which marriages in this part of India are forbidden, combined to reduce the volume both of export and import trade, and for many of the non-agricultural classes, particularly the weavers, the pinch of high prices was much intensified by the absence of demand for their wares. The short cotton crop reduced the demand for coal and the condition of the market operated to restrict the exports of manganese. At the same time the internal political situation was unsatisfactory. At the end of 1908 Nagpur threatened to become the temporary centre of the extremist movement. Colleges and schools had been infected with hostility to authority and certain overt acts of indiscipline had manifested themselves, culminating in December 1908 in the desecration of the statue of the late Queen-Empress at

Nagpur by youths connected with the hostel of the Agricultural College. In the course of 1909 the situation improved in every direction. The measures taken by the Administration to discourage the seditious propaganda were speedily successful: these included the interdiction of the meeting which the disloyal faction proposed to hold at Nagpur, the appointment of a special officer to enquire into local seditious organizations, the prosecution of a few individuals for offences under Section 124-A of the Indian Penal Code or Section 108 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and the closure of three "National schools." This policy of repression killed two seditious newspapers, and after the passing of the Press Act in 1910 the last of those papers which were frankly disloyal ceased to issue. These vigorous measures had the effect of separating from the irreconcilable disloyalists those persons who had for the time through timidity or want of balance thrown in their lot with them and of checking further overt seditious opposition to Government. At the same time the reform of the Councils was accepted as evidence of the intention of Government to allow Indians a more effective voice in the government of the country and confirmed the waverers in their allegiance. The year 1909 brought a no less marked amelioration of the material condition of the Provinces: the monsoon was on the whole favourable, and by the beginning of the autumn harvest the prices of food-grains had already entered on that decline which has now left them lower than for some years past. At the same time the period of *Singhast* came to an end, and the demand for cotton goods and the various small luxuries consumed at marriages revived. Trade was strongly affected by these favourable conditions, imports and exports together being worth 7⅓ crores of rupees more than in 1908-09. An extraordinary mortality amongst cattle, particularly in the highland districts at the beginning of the rains, was the only untoward feature in the agricultural ward of the Province in 1909. Outside the accounts of rent and revenue there were by the beginning of 1910 no signs of severe scarcity of 1907-08: and such arrears of rent and revenue as still remained were generally realizable. The year 1909 was as favourable as 1908 was unfavourable: it was, however, marred by a severe outbreak of plague in Nagpur, Jubbulpore, and other places.

The Administration.

3. The office of Chief Commissioner was held by the Hon'ble Mr. R. H. CRADDOCK, C. S. I., I. C. S., throughout the year, but during his temporary absence on leave from May to November the Hon'ble Mr. F. A. T. PHILLIPS officiated for him.

Relations with Feudatory States.

4. The most important events of the year 1909 in the Feudatory States in political relation with this Administration were the installation of the Feudatory Chief of Sarangarh, the death of the Feudatory Chief of Korea and the consequent assumption of management of that State by Government. All but one of the States lie in the east and south-east of the Central Provinces, and enjoyed in 1908 the more favourable rainfall which distinguished the east from the rest of the Provinces, while in 1909 the monsoon was fairly suitable for rice, the staple of nearly all the States. The year was therefore one of material prosperity in these States. Subsequent events have disclosed that in Bastar certain persons were conspiring to upset the rule of the Feudatory Chief, but at the time the inhabitants of all the States appeared to be as peaceful and contented as they were materially prosperous. The land revenue was realized in full and excise revenue rose. Crime increased slightly, but serious offences were few. The majority of the States contain valuable forests which are managed as well as can be expected considering the limited resources at the disposal of the Chiefs. A normal increase

occurred in the number of schools and the number of pupils who attend them. After the close of the calendar year to which the reports of the Feudatory States refer but within the financial year dealt with in this review, a rebellion of the forest tribes accompanied by some loss of life and considerable damage to property occurred in Bastar. The rising was primarily due to the machinations of members of the Chief's family and of certain intriguing foreigners resident in the capital of the State, who took advantage of certain grievances of the tribes to attempt to upset the administration and to substitute the uncle of the Chief for the Diwan employed by him. The rebellion was speedily crushed with the assistance of a small body of troops and police lent by the British Government.

Realization of the Revenue.

5. The land revenue demand in the Central Provinces and Berar, including a large part of the arrears accruing from the scarcity year 1907-08, was collected with ease, and, except in a few districts, the repayment of loans under the Agriculturists' and Land Improvement Loans Acts has been very satisfactory. In some districts large sums were advanced to replenish the stock of cattle, which had been depleted by the outbreak of disease already referred to.

Settlements.

6. Excellent progress was made in the revision of the assessment of land revenue. Operations were going on in 9 districts (counting the zamindaris and khalsa of Bilaspur as two districts for settlement purposes), but in two of these they were confined to a comparatively small area of villages held on ryotwari tenure. The record was attested in 2,628 villages, rent-rates were proposed for 2,858, and 3,085, villages were assessed, the revised assessments being announced in 2,133 villages. The cost, excluding the cost of the Settlement Commissioner and his office, totalled 4½ lakhs. The revenue demand for the year included a little more than one lakh on account of revision.

Land Records.

In the Department of Land Records there is nothing calling for notice in this summary.

Court of Wards.

7. The administration of Wards' estates was satisfactory except in respect of the cultivation of the home-farm in some districts. The attempt to cultivate by means of servants an area larger than could possibly be managed by hired agency resulted in some loss in two estates.

Public Justice and Security.

8. In the Departments of public justice and security the most important events of this period were the amendment of the Central Provinces Courts Act of 1904, the abolition of three Civil districts, the improvement in the reporting of cases to the police, the suppression of organized crime on the southern border of Berar, and the further development of the reforms undertaken in accordance with the orders of the Government of India on the Police Commission Report. The amendment of the Civil Courts Act permits of the decision of certain cases by Benches of Judges of the Court of the Judicial Commissioner instead of by a single Judge, and extends the jurisdiction of the subordinate Civil Courts. The abolition of the three Civil districts is the first step in the scheme for the creation of Civil and Sessions Districts in the Central Provinces. Further advance in this direction will be steady as railway communications are extended. The statistics of criminal justice exhibit no important variations from the normal and do not call for notice in this summary. The improvement in reporting of crime to the police is a gratifying feature due beyond doubt to improvement in the administration of the department. Serious offences against property were still much too numerous in Berar, but several gangs of dangerous criminals, who infested the border between Berar and the Nizam's dominions, were broken up during the year, and the statistics of the current year reflect the good work done in this respect in the year under report.

Prisons. The only important feature of Jail administration was the increase in the number of punishments, particularly in the Jubbulpore Jail: this is mainly the result of the stiffening of tasks which were before too light. The health of the prisoners was unusually good.

Civil Justice. 9. The provisions of Act IX of 1908 requiring certain suits for foreclosure and sale to be instituted within two years, caused a rush of mortgage suits in all districts, and in Berar the commercial activity caused by the high price of cotton and the prospects of the good crops of 1909 combined with the effect of the Act just mentioned to increase the number of Civil suits filed by 41 per cent. This has naturally been followed by a general increase in the pending file, but in original Courts it falls at a smaller percentage than in the previous year on suits instituted. In some places relief was afforded by temporary transfers, and it is hoped that a redistribution of work, which will be rendered possible by an amendment of the Berar Courts Law, 1905, will facilitate the disposal of business.

Municipal administration. 10. The number of Municipalities remained unchanged at 57. In Berar the system of election was extended for the first time to the Karanja Municipality. The attendance of members was generally satisfactory, but the interest taken in elections varies very greatly in different places. The total income rose from Rs. 21,63,235 to Rs. 24,30,681, mainly in consequence of special grants by Government towards sewerage and water-works schemes and plague expenditure. The income from taxes proper and from fees and Municipal property rose to some extent, and, but for plague losses in Nagpur and Jubbulpore, would probably have surpassed all previous records. The financial position is satisfactory. In the Central Provinces the closing balance increased from Rs. 5,82,835 to Rs. 8,76,903, in spite of an increase in actual expenditure amounting to Rs. 2,58,117, and the cost of collection absorbed 11 per cent of the rates and taxes. In Berar the balance fell from Rs. 2,38,611 to Rs. 1,91,997.

Capital expenditure on water-works and drainage rose from Rs. 60,536 to Rs. 4,64,792, and was spread over Nagpur, Hinganghat, Jubbulpore, Seoni, Harda, Khandwa, and Burhanpur. Work has advanced considerably on the Gorewara Reservoir, which will supply additional water to the town and Civil Station of Nagpur; the Harda water-works have just been completed, and the water-supply at Seoni has been improved. A much larger expenditure on water-works and drainage will be incurred in the near feature.

Fourteen Municipalities have taken loans, twelve from Government and two from private persons. The balance outstanding on account of Government loans was Rs. 16,34,709, of which more than 11 lakhs stand to the debit of the Nagpur and Jubbulpore Municipalities. The financial position of both these Municipalities is sound, but the annual recurrence of plague has caused them heavy losses, and the Municipalities will have to increase rather than relax their efforts to combat the scourge.

District Councils and Local Boards. 11. In the recently formed Drug District, the District Council and Local Boards under it were formally reconstituted and Local Boards were also formed for the new Tahsils of Saoner in Nagpur, Patan in Jubbulpore, and Bhainsdehi in Betul. In Berar there were no changes. In Mandla, where the malguzars and patels of the wilder parts are illiterate, some more non-official members were

added to the informal District Fund Committee, and an Advisory Sub-Committee was formed for the distant Dindori Tahsil. Similar arrangements are in existence in the remote Sironcha Tahsil of the Chanda District and in some of the wilder Zamindaris, and must continue until there has been a considerable advance in education, trade, and general progress.

The interest taken in elections is still painfully small if judged by the voters who come to the poll, but this is due to the fact that the local notables are re-elected time after time without thought of opposition. They are usually the best men available, and it is an undoubted fact that the possession of a seat in the Local Board is regarded as a desirable dignity.

There is little of special note in the year's proceedings. In the Central Provinces the income and expenditure both increased slightly; in Berar, where previously accumulated balances had allowed of liberal expenditures, a halt was called, and though income increased, expenditure was considerably curtailed. The extension of the Village Sanitation Act to Berar will relieve the Boards of expenditure on town improvements in small towns, which, though not sufficiently advanced for Municipal government, can provide funds for their own conservancy, drainage, and water-supply. The expenditure on Education ($5\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs in the Central Provinces and 3 lakhs in Berar) continues large, the average spent on this head for the Central Provinces being 35 per cent of the whole income, and it has been necessary to point out that the desire to foster education cannot be indulged at the cost of starving all other necessary objects, and that Councils must not open new schools for which there are no buildings or trained masters and then come to the Administration for special grants. The Administration is increasing its Education Budget year by year in order to meet the growing cost of secondary and higher education and cannot give more than it does at present for primary education.

Under Civil Works the Councils in several districts of the Central Provinces allowed large lapses on the Budget allotments to occur and spent nothing like the amount of the Road cess on roads proper. Improvement may be expected with the appointment of Local Fund Divisional Engineers and stronger staffs.

The cost of dispensaries and vaccination is still borne by District Councils, but they have been relieved of the cost of Veterinary Assistants.

The Agricultural Department.

12. The work of the Department of Agriculture continues to grow at a quicker rate than its establishment, and want of staff is retarding progress in promising fields of work. Owing to temporary causes the number of admissions to the College was lower than in the previous year: but the number of students passed out increased, and at the end of the year this institution was in a more flourishing condition than ever before. Progress was made in experiment and in the various devices adopted for inducing cultivators to use better seed or employ new methods the utility of which has been established by experiment, and Buri cotton promises to prove an important addition to the crops of the Provinces and deserves the attention of dealers and mill-owners. An important feature of the year's work was the large profit earned by the farms at Akola and Labandih, which sufficed to pay for the staff of demonstrators attached to the Divisions in which the farms lie.

Co-oparative Credit Societies.

13. Co-operative Credit made an important advance during the year. In two districts it has already become a power and has secured the confidence of borrowers on the one side and lenders on the other, while in several others it has acquired a firm footing and is on the eve of a more rapid advance. Sufficient experience has now been obtained to enable the Registrar to select from the several types of societies in existence those which are likely to give the best results. It is only in a comparatively insignificant area of the Provinces that the movement has yet any hold, but its history in those areas leaves no doubt that it has come to stay and that it will spread over the whole area to the enormous benefit of the cultivating and industrial classes who are at present so severely handicapped by the difficulty of obtaining money at a reasonable rate. Much is to be expected from the co-operation of the Departments of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Co-operative Credit.

Weather and Crops.

14. In the introductory paragraphs of this report something has been said about the monsoon of 1909 and the crops of the agricultural year 1909-10. It is only necessary to add that the cropped area increased by nearly a million acres, and that while both the wheat and cotton crops over large areas gave bumper yields, no crop yielded much less than average outturn : and the year must be reckoned an unusually good one.

Forests.

15. The total area of the State forests at the end of the year decreased by 485 square miles, owing to the transfer to Madras of the Cherla Range of the South-Chanda Division. This loss was to a small extent counterbalanced by a gain of 33 square miles, due mainly to recalculations of areas in accordance with the survey sheets and to transfers from the G and H lands in Berar. The outlay on demarcation amounted to Rs. 21,684, being an increase of Rs. 414 over the expenditure of the previous year. The only working plan that received sanction during the year was the revised plan for the Bori forest in Hoshangabad, which covers an area of 42 square miles. New plans or revisions of old plans were in various stages of compilation in other districts. The total outlay of the year on roads, buildings, tanks and wells amounted to Rs. 2,01,309, or Rs. 75,475 less than the corresponding expenditure of 1908-09 when the programme had been specially enlarged to meet the demand for employment. The number of forest offences reported during the year was 9,302, which was 1,080 or 13 per cent above the number of 1908-09. The fire season was a very unfavourable one owing to heavy winter rains which prevented the lines being burnt early in the season, and to the total absence of showers during the hot weather. Sylvicultural operations continued to receive due attention. There was an increase of 4·4 per cent in the total outturn of major forest produce, while under minor produce there were decreases of 37 per cent, 2 per cent, and 5 per cent in the values of the grass, grazing, and other minor produce. The lac industry was continued, but the results are still unsatisfactory. The total revenue of the year has fallen by Rs. 39,538, which is ascribable entirely to a decrease of 7 per cent in the revenue derived from grass and grazing. The expenditure decreased by Rs. 1,51,105 and the net surplus thus increased by Rs. 1,11,567. The Forest School at Balaghat continued to do good work. During the year the sanction of the Secretary of State was received to the reorganization of the Provincial Service as regards the number of appointments, and the scheme was brought into force with effect from the 19th August 1909. The reorganization of the subordinate service was also taken in hand.

Corrigendum to the Report on the Administration of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1909-10.

In line 4 of paragraph 18 on page xi of the General Summary of the Report *for* " new High Courts" *substitute* " new Law Courts ".

J. HULLAH,

Under Secretary to the Chief Commissioner,

Central Provinces.

Govt. Press, Nagpur:—No. 297, Civil Sectt. 24-4-11—400.

16. The mining industry was not specially active during the period. The low price of manganese prohibited the opening of fresh mines. This industry has been hampered at times by the shortage of wagons on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. The Ballarpur Colliery has now developed into a very valuable property and gave a return during the calendar year 1909 of nearly 20 per cent on the capital invested. **Mines and Quarries.**

17. The statistics of trade for the last 12 months for the period under consideration afford remarkable testimony to the improved conditions. Prices of food-grains fell substantially, while the price of cotton rose by 32 per cent. The imports of manufactured cotton increased by 31 per cent over those of the previous year, those of metals and sugar by 119 and 11 per cent, while the quantity of salt imported was nearly double the quantity of the previous year. These evidences of prosperity are the result of an exceptionally good agricultural season coinciding with the cessation of the *Singhast*. The means of satisfying the demand increased at the same time as the demand itself. **Prices and Trade.**

18. The total expenditure during the financial year ending the 31st March 1910 on public works of all kinds amounts to 58⅓ lakhs, of which sum less than half was spent on original works. 30⅓ lakhs was spent on buildings, the most important new works being the new Secretariat buildings, the new High Courts and Record Room at Nagpur, and certain houses at Pachmarhi and Nagpur required for the accommodation of officers. The sum of 28 lakhs was spent on communications, of which about half was spent on original works. **Public Works.**

19. In the Irrigation Department 16½ lakhs was spent on protective irrigation works and nearly 5 lakhs on minor works. Eighteen protective works were under construction, of which 9 were completed, 2 more were nearly finished, and 5 of the rest were sufficiently advanced to permit of some irrigation. The investigation of 8 other works on the programme was continued, and in the case of the Tandula Canal, the largest work yet projected in these Provinces, was completed. In addition some 56 minor works or extensions of works were in progress, of which some were completed. By collaboration with the Irrigation Department the Agricultural Department had done much to convince the conservative cultivators of the south of the Province that it will pay them to take water regularly for the irrigation of their crops. Towards the close of the year the malguzars and tenants of a large tract of country to be commanded by a very large projected work formally declared their readiness to pay a water-rate of Rs. 3 per acre—a figure which a few years ago they would have scouted as ridiculous. The Chhattisgarhi cultivators continued to make good use of the tanks in that Division, in spite of enhancement of the prior agreement rate from Re. 0-12-0 to Rs. 1-4-0 per acre. So far as the future material prosperity of the Province is concerned, the remarkable change in the attitude of cultivators towards irrigation of field crops is one of the most important events of recent years. **Irrigation.**

20. Famine relief and the suspension or remission of revenue, necessitated by the severe scarcity of 1907-08, had reduced the Provincial balance in 1908-09 from 48½ to 17¾ lakhs. In 1909-10 famine relief had ceased except early in the year on a small scale to weavers, and collections of revenue were very full, including a substantial share of the arrears due from the previous year: the consequent improvement of 28⅔ lakhs in revenue and diminution of 9¾ lakhs in expenditure raised the closing balance to nearly 25 lakhs. **Revenue and Finance.**

Vital Statistics. 21. The hardships of 1908 reduced the birth-rate in 1909, but it still remained the highest in India. The death-rate fell to 33·09, but was high compared with that in most other Provinces: in face of the very high birth-rates of the past 6 years this is not surprising. Cholera and small-pox claimed fewer victims than usual, but plague was particularly destructive, a very severe outbreak in Nagpur during the monsoon accounting for 7,000 deaths and severe epidemics occurring elsewhere also. Measures to popularize the use of quinine were considered, but did not take effect till the current year.

Emigration. 22. With a return to more normal conditions, emigration declined, in spite of an increase in every variety of recruiting agency. Labour is now so much in demand on railway and irrigation works and in mines that the tea gardens offer diminished attractions to labourers. Only some 4,000 coolies were recruited, and half of these were Rewah people who are registered at Jubbulpore.

Medical Relief and Vaccination. 23. Under the heads of Medical Relief and Vaccination and Treatment of the Insane nothing worth mentioning in this summary occurred.

Sanitation. 24. The construction of the Gorewara Reservoir, which is intended to supplement the water-supply of Nagpur, and the preparation of several drainage schemes,—of which that for Nagpur is the most important and the furthest advanced,—were the most important items of business in hand during the year in the Sanitary Department.

Education. 25. The year was one of exceptional activity in the Education Department. Several administrative changes of some importance were introduced and others were under discussion. A School-leaving Certificate Examination was instituted, the curricula for English, Middle and Primary Boys' Schools were revised, a Muhammadan High School was established in Amraoti, a comprehensive reference on the improvement of secondary education was submitted to the Government of India.

Of the many important problems before the Administration, the one which most urgently requires solution is the provision of funds to defray the cost of measures for the improvement and extension of existing facilities. Local Bodies are appropriating to education as large a share of their income as possible, and the demands of other Departments of the Administration will not permit of any substantial increase in the allotments from Provincial Revenues. To provide additional funds for Primary Education in the Central Provinces proposals have been submitted to the Government of India to empower District Councils to increase their income for educational purposes, and in the Department of Collegiate and Secondary Education a scheme was under consideration to raise the very low fees without injuring the prospects of promising boys in poor circumstances.

Plague interfered with the College courses and may have affected the results of the University Examinations which were not good except in Law. The results of the Matriculation Examination were again very poor, in spite of special efforts induced by the bad results of the previous year. The raising of the standard probably contributed to this result, but the many defects in the existing schools forbid the inference that the standard was unreasonably high.

The normal increase in Primary Schools and scholars occurred. In Berar rules for grants-in-aid from the District Boards were sanctioned.

In the Department of Technical Education the only innovation was the institution of three scholarships in Mining, tenable at the Sibpur College.

There is undoubtedly a growing disposition to recognize the value of female education, but social customs incompatible with the attendance of girls at school after a very early age exert a very strong hostile influence, with the result that only a very small proportion of children complete even the Primary course. Grant-in-aid rules to facilitate the opening of a school where a real demand exists were sanctioned.

The position of European Schools was improved by an endowment of Rs. 40,000 raised by subscription for the Bishop's School at Nagpur.

Several important steps were taken to improve the special facilities for Muhammadans.

PART II.

CHAPTER I.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

At pages 1 to 52 of the Report on the administration of the Central Provinces for 1901-02 and at pages 1 to 25 of the Report on the administration of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts for the same year will be found an account of the following subjects drawn up for standard reference. Certain portions of the information given are rendered obsolete owing to the transfer of the major portion of the Sambalpur District and the Feudatory States of Patna, Sonpur, Rehrakhol, Kalahandi and Bamra from the Central Provinces to Lower Bengal and the transfer of the Chota Nagpur States—Sirguja, Udaipur, Jashpur, Korea and Changbhakar—from Lower Bengal to the Central Provinces with effect from the 16th October 1905, and by the division of the Raipur, Bilaspur and remainder of the Sambalpur District into three districts on the formation of the Drug District on 1st January 1906. Other changes have been the reduction of the six districts of Berar to four with effect from the 1st September 1905, and the transfer of the Zamindaris of Ambagarh-Chouki, Panabaras, Aundhi and Koracha from the Chanda to the Drug District on the 1st October 1907.

1—PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY, AREA, CLIMATE, &c.

2—HISTORICAL SUMMARY

3—FORM OF ADMINISTRATION

[For an account of the "Form of Administration" in Berar, see paragraph 2 of Part II of the Administration Report of the Central Provinces for 1903-04.]

4—CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES

5—SYSTEM OF SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT

6—CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY

7—DETAILS OF THE LAST CENSUS—TRIBES AND LANGUAGES

8—CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

2. The Hon'ble Mr. R. H. Craddock, C. S. I., I. C. S., held charge of the office of Chief Commissioner from the commencement of the year to the 19th May 1909, and again from the 22nd November 1909 to the close of the year under report. From the 20th May to the 21st November 1909 Mr. Craddock was on combined leave, and the Hon'ble Mr. F. A. T. Phillips, I. C. S., officiated as Chief Commissioner.

9—RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES

RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES

[Report on the Administration of the Feudatory States of the Central Provinces for the year 1909.]

Changes in the Administration.

3. The Feudatory Chief of Sarangarh assumed the administration of his State during the year, being installed at a special Darbar held by the Chief Commissioner at Raipur. The Korea State was taken under Government management owing to the death of the Chief. Thus at the close of the year ten States were under their own Chiefs and five under management.

RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES.

Rainfall and crops.

4. Though excessive rain damaged the cotton crop to some extent, the heavy monsoon of 1909 was on the whole favourable for the States, where rice is the most important crop.

Trade and prices.

5. The export trade was even brisker in most States than it was in the preceding year, but the ginning factories in the Kawardha State and at Nandgaon found difficulty in securing cotton.

Condition of the people.

6. The year was one of prosperity. Prices of food-grains were at first high, but fell when the new crops were brought into the market. Small-pox and cattle disease were prevalent in a few of the States, the heaviest mortality among cattle being reported from Sirguja, but the death and birth-rates were normal, and on the whole the period was a healthy one. There was little or no emigration.

Finance.

7. The financial condition of the States was satisfactory. The Kawardha and Sarangarh States incurred heavy expenses in connection with installation ceremonies, but there was no extravagant expenditure. Indebted States are steadily clearing off their encumbrances.

Land revenue.

8. Again a most satisfactory feature of the year was the ease with which the land revenue demand was realized in most States and the insignificant number of cases in which resort to any form of coercive process was necessary. In Sirguja, however, a large demand remained to be realized.

Settlement.

9. Settlement operations were in progress in six States. No regular settlement has been made in the Chota Nagpur States, transferred in 1905 to the Central Provinces. It was proposed to make one in Jashpur, but the idea was abandoned.

Crime, Law and Justice.

10. There was an increase in crime in the States, but few of the offences were of a serious nature. The administration of justice, both criminal and civil, was carried out without undue delay or inconvenience to the parties. Civil litigation increased in volume, but most of the suits are still of a very petty nature.

Jails.

11. The number of prisoners in Jail was much the same as in the previous year. The Jail administration in all States was well conducted. A few deaths from bowel complaints occurred, but the Jail mortality was very slight. Weaving of various kinds and oil-pressing are the two principal forms of labour imposed.

Forests.

12. The income from forests was chiefly derived from the sale of timber, lac, and harra. There was a falling-off in forest receipts in a few of the States, due to fortuitous causes. In Bastar two officials returned from the Balaghat Forest School, and two more were sent for training. A small class for the elementary education of Forest dafadars was also started at Jagdalpur during the rains, at which 10 students studied and passed. Minor produce is usually leased and timber is extracted in the States with the largest forest areas by concessionaires who pay a fixed royalty and are permitted to fell only trees marked by the State Foresters.

Excise.

13. Almost all the States have shown an increase in Excise income, chiefly due to an increase in license fees and to competition for the opium and ganja vends.

Education.

14. There was an increase in the number of schools opened, the number of pupils who attended them, and the expenditure on education. The King-Emperor's birthday was celebrated in all the schools.

Rajkumar College.

15. The Rajkumar College in Raipur has made steady progress during the year. The health and conduct of the boys have been excellent. Proposals for the improvement of the College are under consideration.

Public Works Department.

16. The Public Works of Khairagarh State were put in charge of the Executive Engineer, Chhattisgarh States Division, and those of Bastar were withdrawn. Six States now avail themselves of his services.

10—CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE

The season.

17. Last year's Report expressed the anticipation that it would now be possible to record complete recovery from the effects of the scarcity of 1907-08. That anticipation has, happily, been realised. The rainfall of 1909-10 was favourable, though not extremely so, in quantity and distribution alike. The cultivation of both kharif and rabi crops extended, and their outturn was generally good, though the western districts were less fortunate than those in the east. In Berar a good crop of cotton fetched unusually high prices. The end of the year of *Singhast* brought with it a return to more normal conditions of trade. Exports increased as the good crops were sent to their distant markets, and growing imports came in return. The scanty manufactures of the Province shared in the general well-being. Crime was no more than normal. Plague fell heavily on Nagpur itself and on some other towns, but on the whole public health was good. Progress by leaps and bounds is not to be expected, and such steady advance as that of the past year must be considered quite satisfactory.

CHAPTER II

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND

1—REALIZATION OF REVENUE

REALIZATION OF REVENUE

[Resolution on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces for the year ending 30th September 1909 and of Berar for the year 1908-09.]

The Central Provinces.

18. The total malguzari demand of land revenue amounted to Rs. 85,99,131, showing a gross increase of Rs. 1,11,434 and a net increase of over a lakh. A rise of Rs. 1,01,222 was due to revision of assessment in 4 districts. With the exception of a few negligible amounts, all unsuspended arrears were collected, while Rs. 5,46,799 out of the suspended revenue of Rs. 13,78,803 was paid in. Collections have thus been very satisfactory. Miscellaneous revenue was also collected almost in full with the exception of the arrears on account of royalty on the Mohpani Colliery, amounting to Rs. 34,694, which are still outstanding pending the orders of the Government of India.

Berar.

19. The total demand in Berar on account of land revenue proper, including cesses, was Rs. 89,49,985, or Rs. 34,549 more than in the previous year. The increase was mainly due to the levy of the full revised rates in 99 villages of the Chikhli taluq, whilst small additions accrued from the allotment of unoccupied lands and the resumption of certain inam holdings. Of the total demand 99·7 per cent was collected, ·25 was suspended, and the balance of ·05 was recoverable.

Coercive processes.

20. In the Central Provinces the number of notices of demand issued fell by more than 27 per cent ; that of the severer forms of coercive processes increased considerably, though it was still, when viewed absolutely, exceedingly small. On total collections of land revenue and cesses, arrears and current, amounting to over 100 lakhs, 93 per cent was collected without any coercion at all, only one defaulter was imprisoned in the Civil Jail, and though attachments of property were effected in 614 cases out of 34,000 mahals, moveables were brought to sale in only 33 instances. Seven mahals were put under temporary attachment but no immoveable property was sold.

Berar.

21. In Berar the number of writs of demand issued was smaller than in the previous year, but there was an increase from 4,915 to 6,048 in the number of attachment orders issued against personal property. However, the fact that attachment was effected in only 335 cases and actual sale in only 19 cases suggests that attachment orders were issued to an unnecessary extent. Allowing for the misleading effect of the statistics, the amount of coercion found necessary was, in view of the circumstances of the year, remarkably small.

Government loans, Central Provinces.

22. The Government Loan Account of the Central Provinces (principal) is shown in the following statement. The figures are for the financial year ending the 31st March 1910 :—

	Under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.		Under the Land Improvement Loans Act.	
	With interest.	Without interest.	With interest.	Without interest.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Outstanding at the commencement of the year, *i. e.*, on the 1st April 1909.	14,82,300	2,700	20,90,400	
Remitted during the year 1909-10 ...	2,900	300	4,500	
Collected do. do. ..	11,56,300	1,800	4,09,200	
Advanced do. do. ..	3,73,500	...	1,94,900	
Outstanding at the close of the year, *i. e.*, on the 31st March 1910.	6,96,600	600	18,71,600	

REALIZATION OF REVENUE

In consequence of the very liberal distribution of takavi in the previous year there were large balances outstanding under both the Acts at the beginning of the year. Notwithstanding this there was again a clamorous demand in many districts for agricultural loans to replace the losses caused by very heavy mortality among cattle, and advances amounting to $8\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs were made during the year. In the matter of Land Improvement Loans there was naturally a reaction after the exceptional activity of the previous year. The collections were particularly good in the Jubbulpore and Chhattisgarh Divisions; large balances remained in the Nagpur, Bhandara, Wardha, Nimar, and Betul districts, which can only partially be justified by the existence of large balances of rent and revenue to be collected in those districts; but on the whole the results were satisfactory. The exceptionally large number of sanads issued for land improvement is satisfactory evidence that the loans issued during the scarcity were honestly devoted to the purpose for which they were taken.

In Berar the amount allotted for loans to agriculturists was Rs. 1,76,641 under the Land Improvement Loans Act and Rs. 63,359 under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, the sums actually disbursed being Rs. 1,39,835 (79 per cent) and Rs. 57,674 (91 per cent) respectively. The advances were far larger than those made in former years in Berar, indicating that the system is becoming more popular owing to greater promptitude in distribution. Out of a total sum of Rs. 1,27,746 due for collection as principal and interest, Rs 1,16,939 were collected, Rs. 9,235 suspended, Rs. 192 remitted, and Rs. 1,380 remained overdue. The collections were thus decidedly good.

2—SURVEYS

SURVEYS

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1909 and in Berar during the year ending the 31st July 1909.]

23. A local traverse survey party has been working in the Central Provinces during the year under the orders of the Director of Land Records. The Surveyor-General was able to send only two traversers in time, and thus only the most urgent work could be taken up. The traverse survey of about 96 square miles was completed. Traverse work was begun in the Melghat taluk in Berar, where preparations were also made for a cadastral survey.

3—SETTLEMENT

SETTLEMENT.

[Report on the operation of the Land Records and Settlement Departments of the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1909 and in Berar during the year ending the 31st July 1909.]

24. The orders of the Government of India on the inception of settlement operations in the ryotwari and thekadari villages of the Baihar Tahsil in the Balaghat District and in the malguzari villages of the Wardha District, and their sanction to the reimposition of abated rents and revenue in the Saugor District, were received during the year. Proposals for the inception of settlement operations in the old Drug Tahsil (Khalsa) and the Sanjari pargana in the Drug District were submitted for the orders of the Government of India shortly after the close of the year. The term of settlement has been extended in Chhindwara and Narsinghpur to 1915-16. Settlement operations were continued in the districts mentioned below.

Mandla.—Announcement was completed in 1,346 villages. Rent-rate reports for 292 villages of the Dindori Tahsil and assessment proposals for 526 villages of the same tahsil were submitted, and orders were passed on them. The Wajib-ul-arz sanctioned last year was announced in the groups in which rents and revenue had previously been announced. Certain objections were raised by the malguzars of the waste land purchase villages to portions of the Wajib-ul-arz, and after careful discussion with them the Settlement Officer submitted a revised form which has been sanctioned by the Local Administration but has not fully satisfied the demands of the malguzars. Orders have been passed on 65 cases of disputed forest boundaries. The expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 40,252.

Jubbulpore.—Attestation was effected in 846 villages. 898 villages were inspected by Party Officers and the Settlement Officer inspected and passed 500 villages. Rent-rate reports for 6 groups of 840 villages and assessment proposals for 4 groups were submitted. Orders were passed on the four rent-rate and 2 assessment reports. Shortly after the close of the year the orders of the Government of India on the preliminary report for the Sihora Tahsil were received. The proposals for the revision of the Wajib-ul-arz of the District were sanctioned with certain modifications. The total cost of the operations during the year was Rs. 70,636.

Damoh.—The settlement operations suspended on account of the failure of crops in 1907-08 could not be begun again till the middle of November 1908 owing to the unhealthy season and consequent sickness among additional Revenue Inspectors. Attestation was carried out in 388 villages, and the Party Officers and the Settlement Officer inspected 618 villages. The preliminary report for the Hatta Tahsil was submitted for the orders of the Government of India. The year's expenditure amounted to Rs. 63,665.

Wardha.—Work was commenced (in anticipation of sanction, which was only received in March 1909) in the Hinganghat Tahsil. Revenue Inspectors attested 244 villages, which were inspected by the Party Officers and the Settlement Officer. It was found, unexpectedly, that the soils had all to be classed afresh. Rent-rate reports for 244 villages were submitted. Quicker progress is expected in the next field season. The total cost of the year's operations amounted to Rs. 49,105.

Raipur.—Attestation was completed in 317 villages. The Party Officers and the Settlement Officer inspected 558 villages. Other villages were inspected by a specially authorized Assistant Settlement Officer. Announcement was carried out in 419 villages. Rent-rate reports for 774 villages of the Raipur and Mahasamund Tahsils and assessment reports for 761 villages of the Baloda-Bazar Tahsil were submitted. The preliminary report for the Bemetara Tahsil was received. The total cost of the operations during the year was Rs. 80,729.

Bilaspur (*Khalsa*).—The Inspectors attested 223 villages, the Party Officers 255, and the Settlement Officer 264. Announcement was completed in 170 villages, and the revised rents and revenue were announced, with effect from the 1st July 1909. Rent-rate reports for 484 villages and assessment proposals for 632 were submitted and orders passed thereon. The total expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 62,204.

Bilaspur (*Zamindaris*).—During the year under report the Settlement Officer fell ill and had to proceed on six months' leave, when the Senior Assistant Settlement Officer, Mr. Chunni Lal, was appointed to hold charge. Attestation was effected in 352 villages, 334 villages were inspected by Party Officers, and the Settlement Officer and Assistant Settlement Officer in charge passed 327; 18 of the unsurveyed villages were surveyed and records prepared. Map correction work in 93 villages left over from last year was completed. Announcement was completed in 118 villages. Rent-rate reports for 389 villages constituting three Zamindaris were submitted. The total expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 47,209.

Mandla (*Ryotwari*).—Proposals for the re-assessment of 87 ryotwari villages were submitted and orders passed on them. Orders were also passed on the proposals for the redistribution of areas in the ryotwari villages of the Mandla Tahsil and 11 villages were transferred to the Forest Department.

Nimar (*Ryotwari*).—Settlement operations were hampered to a considerable extent by the remoteness of the tracts, and their malarious and jungly character, combined with the difficulty of getting labour in the uninhabited country surrounding them. The operations were, however, completed shortly after the close of the year. Rent-rate and assessment reports for 79 villages were submitted and orders were passed on them. Announcement was completed in 80 villages. Survey numbers of convenient size were formed, and care was taken to include a fair proportion of good and poor soils in each survey number; 2,143 survey numbers were dealt with. This finishes work on the area excised from B-1 forest. The year's expenditure amounted to Rs. 26,332.

Balaghat (*Ryotwari*).—The cadastral survey was completed in 7 villages and map correction in 20 villages. All the villages under Settlement, numbering 258, were attested by Inspectors and inspected by Party Officers during the year. Disease and the need of instruction among the staff delayed operations, but the Settlement Officer inspected 101 villages. After the close of the year he submitted Rent-rate reports for 201 villages. The cost of the operations amounts to Rs. 12,781.

Yeotmal.—The revised rates of assessment in the Pusad Taluq were announced. These will be collected during the revenue year 1909-10.

Amraoti. The orders of the Government of India on the inception of Survey and Settlement operations in the Melghat Taluq were received.

4—LAND RECORDS

LAND RECORDS

[Reports on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1909 and in Berar during the year ending the 31st July 1909.]

Establishment.

25. The revision of the patwari halkabandi of the Narsinghpur District involved no addition to the present staff, but it resulted in facilitating the map correction work in the hilly tracts which were hitherto understaffed. The halkabandi of the Baihar Tahsil in the Balaghat District was also revised during the year. Some additions to the Land Record staff were necessitated by the creation of the Saoner Tahsil in the Nagpur District and a small reduction in staff was rendered possible by the transfer to Madras of the lower taluks of the Sironcha Tahsil in the Chanda District.

Boundary marks.

26. The condition of the traverse marks, though generally satisfactory, is still capable of improvement. In Damoh the marks were not in good condition, but steps have been taken to improve them with the help of the Settlement staff. In Jubbulpore the matter is somewhat neglected by the Tahsildars. Boundary marks of ryotwari survey numbers were generally maintained in good order. The revised procedure introduced last year in Berar for the inspection of boundary marks effected a great simplification of procedure, and considerable improvement was made in inspection and maintenance, though much still remains to be done.

Utilization of Land Records.

27. Circle Note-books were generally up to date in all the Districts except Bilaspur, Damoh, the Baihar Tahsil of the Balaghat District and the Pusad Taluq of Berar, where Settlement operations were in progress, and in Bhandara and Seoni. Village Note-books were generally written up to date, except in a number of villages in Damoh, Balaghat, Seoni, Mandla, and Nagpur Districts. In the Umrer Tahsil of Nagpur their condition was not very satisfactory.

Testing of Land Records.

28. The testing of village papers by Revenue Inspectors and Superintendents of Land Records was generally satisfactory in point of quantity, and efforts continue to be made to improve its quality. Deputy Commissioners and their Assistants did more checking during the year, but there was a decline in the number of Khasra entries checked by Tahsildars, who have yet to realize their responsibility in this connection. The percentage of inaccuracies discovered in the Khasra and Jamabandi was about the same as last year. The condition of village maps was satisfactory except in jungly tracts, where cultivation is expanding and patwaris' circles are often large. The renewal of tracings proceeded in most Districts. In Berar the inspection of village papers was to some extent hampered by various causes.

Conduct of the Land Record Staff.

29. The number of patwaris who had official permission to reside outside their circles decreased from 194 to 180. The number residing outside their circles without permission was 331. Of these, many were new men whose confirmation would depend upon their becoming resident within their circles. The number of punishments inflicted on patwaris increased, but the punishment roll of Revenue Inspectors was extremely light. The recruitment and discipline of patwaris, especially in the Central Provinces, where the office is not hereditary, involve some difficult questions of pay, duties, and qualifications. The patwaris at head-quarters in Jubbulpore attempted an ineffectual strike. The work of Revenue Inspectors appears to be improving. Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Land Records were reported on favourably.

WASTE LAND

5—WASTE LAND

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces for the year ending 30th September 1909 and on the Revenue Administration of Berar for the year ending the 31st July 1909.]

30. The only districts in the Central Provinces in which waste lands are available for allotment to any large extent are Mandla, Nimar, Chanda, and Balaghat. The total area available for allotment at the commencement of the year was 344,738 acres, of which 74 990 acres were allotted during the year, leaving a balance, after allowing for relinquishment of 345 834 acres. The area allotted in Mandla, Chanda, and Balaghat was a little more than that relinquished, while in Nimar the area relinquished was one and half times as much as the area allotted

In Berar the area available for allotment in *khalsa* villages amounted to 54,059 acres, of which 11,000 acres were allotted during the year There is every reason to believe that the land which has been recently made available for cultivation by excision from C Class forest will be speedily taken up.

GOVERNMENT ESTATES

6—GOVERNMENT ESTATES

31. There are no Government Estates in the Central Provinces and Berar.

WARDS' ESTATES

7—WARDS' ESTATES

[Report on the management by Government of Private Estates for the year ending the 30th September 1909]

The Central Provinces.

32 There were 69 estates under management throughout the year; they covered an area of 7,618 square miles, or 9 per cent of the Province. Rental collections were more satisfactory, the management of forests was more prudent, and dealings with tenants were much fairer than used to be the case. These results were partly due to better times, partly to more discrimination at the time of the assumption of management, but mainly to more efficient supervision of the Court of Wards.

Income.

33. The total gross income of the year amounted to Rs. 12,40,707, 57 per cent consisting of rents. The total collections aggregated Rs. 7,12,178 or 110 per cent on the current demand, a result which shows a satisfactory state of the arrear account, and is generally good. Next to rents, forests constituted the principal source of income, especially in Zamindari estates. During the year the total revenue from forests stood at Rs. 2,91,327 or Rs. 64,203 more than in the previous year. The increase was shared by estates everywhere except in the Nerbudda Division, where the falling off in income was due to overcutting in previous years. In the Koracha and Panabaras Zamindaris the increases were considerable and were due to the grazing charges made for the first time for non-agricultural cattle.

Expenditure.

34. The total gross expenditure of the year was Rs. 8,98,580, of which Rs. 3 37,781, or 38 per cent of the total sum, was on account of land revenue and cesses. The cost of management was 18 per cent of the gross income, as compared with 21 per cent in the previous year. In nearly all the solvent estates takavi loans in cash or grain were given out to the tenants, though not to the same extent as in the preceding year, when larger advances were necessitated by the failure of crops.

Improvements.

35. Estate improvements were continued on much the same scale as in the year 1907-08, the total amount expended on this account being Rs. 98,245. The most important work carried out was an irrigation tank in the Bijagarh Estate of the Balaghat District, which is eventually to cost Rs. 21,000. Irrigation tanks and wells were also constructed in other estates, but a larger proportion of the available funds might well have been spent on irrigation.

Debt.

36. The progress made in liquidating debt was very satisfactory. The amount paid off out of current income exceeded a lakh and a half of rupees; the additions to indebtedness were trifling, and it was not found necessary to sell any property in order to meet obligations. The debts due at the time of assumption of management have been reduced by about one-half, and an examination

WARDS' ESTATES.

of the debt accounts showed that all estates were in a hopeful position, except perhaps in two cases; at Kutki in Wardha crop failures and the difficulty of disposing advantageously of the large home-farm led to an increase of debt, and the prospects of the Sonsari Zamindari Estate recently taken over in Chanda were still doubtful.

General.

37. Direct cultivation of the home-farm left the greatest room for improvement. It was of course impossible for the Court of Wards to make the same profit as a cultivator cultivating his own land, but it should certainly have made as much as an absentee landlord, provided that the home-farm was not inordinately large in area and that it was not scattered in small parcels over hundreds of villages. In the Diwan's Estate in Seoni and the Kutki Estate in Wardha the home-farm was unmanageably large, and failure to work it profitably was only to be expected. The system of granting a bonus to successful local agents again proved very helpful in many districts and a general extension of the system was enjoined. The proper training of wards is a far more difficult matter to deal with; the cases in which the education of minor wards has been a failure are often most disheartening. Such results, however, cannot justly be attributed to the want of supervision on the part of a Court of Wards; they are rather due to regrettable home influences which have thwarted the best efforts of the Court towards forming the character and physique of its wards. Last year dissatisfaction was expressed with the experiment tried in the Jubbulpore District, by which certain wards were placed in full charge of the management of their estates. This was due to certain misleading remarks in the reports on the subject, but as a matter of fact the estate had continued to be efficiently managed and more than the prescribed amount of debt was paid off.

8—REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

[Resolution on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th September 1909. Resolution on the Revenue Administration Report of Berar for the year ending the 31st July 1909.]

General conditions.

38. The monsoon of 1908 was characterized by heavy and continuous rainfall throughout the months of July and August. The rainfall late in the season was as much below the average as that of the earlier months was above it, and rain ceased in nearly all districts by the middle of September. The cold-weather rainfall was scanty and in the south of the Province very late; in many places it was accompanied by hailstorms which did a considerable amount of damage. In March and April there were heavy and untimely falls of rain which, though too late to affect the harvest, did considerable damage to the fruit crops. In Berar the rainfall, though above the average in amount, was badly distributed. Incessant rain in July, followed by the sudden and early withdrawal of the monsoon in September, seriously reduced a very promising kharif outturn; while the rabi suffered from the lateness of the winter rains.

In the Central Provinces the north and east of the Province—the Jubbulpore and Chhattisgarh Divisions with the districts of Balaghat and Narsinghpur—may, broadly speaking, be said to have had a fair year; while most of the western districts fared badly, especially Hoshangabad, where the combined outturn of all crops is estimated at the low figure of 70. The facts that there was an extension of land occupied for cultivation even larger than that of the previous year, and that this was most marked in the Jubbulpore Division, which suffered most severely from the failure of that year, showed how little the progress of the Province had been checked by a single defective harvest. Further, both ryotwari and malguzari cultivation increased in extent and the area actually cultivated increased in an even larger proportion than that occupied. In Berar, notwithstanding the unfavourable character of the rainfall, the cropped area increased by nearly 50,000 acres; the total outturn of all crops was returned as 68, while in the previous year it had been 50. The most serious feature of the year from the point of view of the smaller proprietors and tenants was probably the unusual mortality amongst cattle in the rains of 1909: the cause was obscure, but large numbers of working cattle succumbed, especially in the Highland Districts.

Interest in the improvement of agricultural methods is steadily, if slowly, increasing, and the officers of the Agricultural Department are getting gradually into closer touch with the people and winning their confidence. The Co-operative

Credit movement is showing distinct progress, and a marked development of interest is perceptible in the Government irrigation works. Foolish and malignant rumours concerning the intentions of Government were spread from time to time, but the agricultural classes as a body were untouched by political excitement.

Tenants.

39. The total rental demand increased from Rs. 1,24,31,649 to Rs. 1,26,25,359. The total rental collections on current and arrear account varied from 97 per cent of the total demand of the year in the Nerbudda Division to 106 per cent in the Chhattisgarh Division. Allowing for suspensions of revenue and rent, the percentage collected on the actual demand of the year for the Province as a whole was probably about 101 per cent, which under the circumstances may be considered very satisfactory. The area held in absolute-occupancy right continued steadily to diminish: but the occupancy area, except in the Jubbulpore Division and in the Drug Zamindari, showed a slight increase; this was largely traceable to Chanda District, where practically all tenants hold these rights. It appeared that although very little use was made of Section 73 of the Tenancy Act, occupancy rights were quite freely acquired by private negotiations with the landlord, and in such cases the purchase money was often greatly in excess of the statutory $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the rent.

Landlords.

40. The previous year's prediction that the results of the scarcity of 1907-08 would be reflected in the transfers of proprietary rights during succeeding years was to some extent borne out by the results of the year; but although the number of private sales increased considerably, the area sold was only 3 per cent more than last year, while the area transferred under compulsory sales was very considerably smaller. But the fact that private sales of plots reached the large total of 2,101 against 1,418 in the preceding year was particularly indicative of a time of financial stress among the less wealthy proprietors of land.

The area held as *sir* again showed an increase owing to the additions made under the law in districts under settlement. Where settlements were not in progress the *sir* area continued to decrease, but the loss was generally made good by extension of *khudkasht*. On the whole the general results of the Land Revenue Administration of the year were not incompatible with that progress in prosperity among the agricultural classes of which there are unmistakable indications elsewhere.

Landlords and tenants.

41. The suits and applications between landlord and tenant which came before Courts and Revenue Officers were exceedingly few, numbering well under 20,000 on a tenantry of a million and a half, a clear indication of the fact that the relations between the two classes were generally satisfactory.

CHAPTER III

PROTECTION

1—LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

42. The Legislative Authority for the Central Provinces is the Council of the Governor General of India for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations. For Berar, legislation is effected by Notifications issued by the Governor General in Council under the power conferred on him by the Indian (Foreign Jurisdiction) Order in Council, 1902.

2—COURSE OF LEGISLATION

COURSE OF LEGISLATION

43. The only Act of the Governor General in Council passed during the year under review with special reference to the Central Provinces was No. XI of 1910, amending the Central Provinces Courts Act of 1904. Its chief features were a provision for rules to enable benches of Judges of the Court of the Judicial Commissioner to be formed, and an extension of the jurisdiction of subordinate civil courts. The following Acts were made applicable to Berar by Notifications published in the *Gazette of India*—the Court Fees Act, VII of 1870; the Legal Practitioners' Act, XVIII of 1879; the Police Act, III of 1888; the Indian Stamp Act, II of 1899; the Glanders and Farcy Act, XIII of 1899; the Prevention of Seditious Meetings Act, VI of 1907; the Code of Civil Procedure, V of 1908; the Criminal Law Amendment Act, XIV of 1908; and the Whipping Act, IV of 1909. The Berar Small Cause Courts Law, 1905, was also amended by the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

3—POLICE

POLICE.

[Report on the Police Administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1909, and Part VI of the Statistics of British India.]

44. The number of offences reported to the police was 26,766, as compared with 29,142 in 1908. The important features in the Police administration of the year were the improvement in the reporting and registration of crime, the large number of dacoities in the three southern Districts of Berar, and the campaign undertaken by Mr. Cleveland against the propaganda of the disloyal faction in Nagpur, Berar, and Saugor. The statistics do not show that decrease of crime which might have been expected in view of the improved agricultural conditions, but this was due to more complete reporting, as is strongly indicated by the fact that serious crime distinctly diminished. Berar supplied three-fourths or more of the dacoities, and one-half of the robberies, of the combined Provinces. During the past year the police seldom succeeded in bringing individual dacoities in Berar home to the offenders, and often failed to recover stolen property, but there are signs that the vigorous action which has been taken in the past few years against bands of dacoits and professional criminals is beginning to have its effects. In 1908 the opening of the cotton season was marked by an epidemic of highway robberies; in 1909 this was prevented by carefully organized patrolling on the main lines of traffic There is some reason to believe that the police establishment is insufficient in some of the southern Taluqs. Berar is also especially liable to house-breakings, both because of its wealth and because large numbers of outsiders come every year to work in the cotton harvest and the factories; criminals, travelling with them, find it comparatively easy to seek their own harvest unnoticed Mr. Cleveland's proceedings not only disclosed the extent of seditious organizations in these Provinces, but also made it plain to the disloyalists that active suppression was to take the place of passive vigilance. The effect was most satisfactory, in regard both to the small band of malcontents and to the people generally. Several prosecutions for sedition were instituted in the Maratha country of Nagpur and Berar; all were successful. That tract happens also to be much given to small riots about claims to fields; but it is hoped that this tendency will be checked by the systematic application of sections 109 and 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Crime, General.

POLICE

Offences against the State, the person, and property.

45. Offences against the State fell from 403 to 388. Serious offences against the person rose from 1,902 to 2,044, being the only class in which an increase occurred. Dacoities fell from 171 to 125. The number of cases of serious mischief, 366, was almost the same as in the previous year. The total amount of property stolen was worth just over eight lakhs, 4½ lakhs going in house-breakings, 2½ in thefts, and ½ a lakh in dacoities; a little over 2½ lakhs was recovered. Cattle-poisoning is common, in some parts at least, on the part of Chamars who want the hides of the animals. Large quantities of arsenic are privately imported by shopkeepers It may be advisable to apply section 5 of the Poisons Act to the Chhattisgarh Districts. Other offences call for little remark. Plague was prevalent in certain parts of the Province, but it is satisfactory to observe that the preventive action necessary to safeguard the property left in evacuated towns and villages is now well understood.

Police action.

46. Investigations were made in a slightly higher proportion of cases in the Central Provinces, and in a lower proportion in Berar, where the percentage of investigations has been steadily falling for several years and now approximates to what may be called the Central Provinces standard. In house-breakings, 52 per cent of the reports in the Central Provinces and 66 per cent in Berar, and in ordinary thefts 42 and 46 per cent respectively, were investigated. The last two figures may seem rather low, but the great majority of the ordinary thefts reported are of the pettiest description, and it is better to obtain full reporting and to abstain freely from investigation than to risk the concealment of crime which follows on too free investigation. There can be no doubt that the reduction of the percentage of investigation in Berar from nearly 100 per cent in 1902 to its present figure has been one of the factors in obtaining more faithful reporting of crime. On the whole the reports show that station-house officers have used wisely their discretion as to investigating reports. The proportion of convictions to cases sent up to Court is slightly smaller than last year for the Province as a whole, though the Berar Districts show an improvement in this respect.

Rural and Punitive Police.

47. There are no rural police in these Provinces, the village-headmen, with the assistance of the village-watchmen, being responsible for the prevention and reporting of crime and the rendering of aid in the surveillance of criminals. Punitive Police were quartered at three villages.

Establishment.

48. Various measures were taken in further pursuance of the recommendations of the Police Commission. The sanctioned strength of Inspectors was increased from 126 to 134 and that of Sub-Inspectors from 519 to 591, the grading of the latter being also improved. The strength of the Railway Police was also increased. The total cost of the Provincial Police Force was Rs 29,35,000 as compared with Rs 28,45,000 in the previous year, and that of the Railway Police was Rs. 92,259 instead of Rs 78,673. Recruitment caused considerable difficulty, as few Pardeshis were available owing to the comparatively good season in the north of India. Berar is especially uninviting to recruits because of the high prices prevailing there, but to counterbalance this free quarters are being introduced. More efforts are to be made to recruit from the aboriginal tribes. The health of the force was better than in the preceding year, deaths numbering 113 against 143 in 1908. Inoculation protected the men admirably from plague.

Miscellaneous.

49. The work of the Finger-Print Bureau increased steadily and was very useful. A large building programme is in view, but little was done in the year under report, partly because the estimates were not ready in time, but chiefly because financial conditions required strict economy. Discipline required the dismissal of 4 officers and the punishment in other ways of 74 others; the figures are a little less than those of last year.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE — 4—CRIMINAL JUSTICE

[Report on the Judicial Administration (Criminal) of the Central Provinces for the year 1909, and Part VI of the Statistics of British India]

Crime.

50. The total number of offences reported fell from 41,295 to 39,989, and that of cases returned as true from 32,741 to 31,462. Of offences under the Indian Penal Code, those affecting the human body were slightly more numerous than in the previous year; offences connected with marriage, those against the

public tranquillity, and that of defamation increased considerably. Good harvests and high wages tended to a decrease in the number of petty thefts, and to an increase in disputes and criminal complaints. There were two cases of sedition under Section 124-A, one at Nagpur and one at Akola; the accused, who were both pleaders and editors of newspapers, were convicted and sentenced to pay heavy fines. The decrease in offences under Special and Local Laws was chiefly under the Cantonments and Municipal Acts, the fall in the latter being due to more frequent composition of cases. The number of reported offences under the Workman's Breach of Contract Act fell from 393 to 368, but the number of persons brought to trial rose from 376 to 493. Of these no less than 293 were acquitted on the complainant absenting himself or compounding the offence: the institution of criminal proceedings under the Act was in itself enough to induce the accused to come to terms.

Courts of Original Jurisdiction.

51. The strength of the Magistracy rose further, from 507 to 566, the increase being mainly among 3rd Class Magistrates. To afford further relief to Tahsildars, 24 more Naib-Tahsildars were invested with 3rd Class powers. The number of Bench Magistrates was increased from 292 to 303. The great increase in cases referred to higher Courts under Sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure was due to the withdrawal of whipping powers from 2nd Class Magistrates and to the more frequent resort to Section 562 in dealing with first offenders. There was a slight increase in the work of Honorary Magistrates, but the number of persons under trial before Stipendiary Magistrates decreased from 40,946 to 37,230. Of the total number of persons whose cases were disposed of by Magistrates, 7 per cent were dealt with by District Magistrates, 67·4 per cent by Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates, and 31·9 per cent by Honorary Magistrates, the corresponding figures in 1908 being 7, 69·6, and 29·7. The percentage of cases tried summarily was 33·7 as compared with 38·1 in 1908, the actual number falling from 3,645 to 2,734. The percentage in Bengal is higher, but could only be secured in these Provinces if a large number of stationary Magistrates gave their whole time to criminal work and Benches were empowered under Section 260 or Section 261, Criminal Procedure Code. The number of persons released on probation of good conduct under Section 562 of the Criminal Procedure Code increased in spite of a marked decrease in offences against property, for which the procedure is specially applicable; the more generous use of Section 562 mentioned in last year's report thus continues.

The despatch of business.

52. The number of cases disposed of during the year was 30,057, compared with 31,687 in 1908, and the average duration in all Courts fell from 19 to 18·1 days. Both police cases and complaint cases showed an improvement. In Berar the average duration of police cases was 13·1 and that of complaint cases only 8 days, while for the Central Provinces the figures were 18·6 and 23·1. The high average duration in the Central Provinces was due to the large number of witnesses examined, the disposal of heavy cases delayed for special reasons in the Chhindwara District and difficulty in procuring the attendance of witnesses in Nagpur on account of plague The number of complaints rejected under Section 203 and proceedings taken under Section 250 of the Criminal Procedure Code remained practically constant.

Sessions Courts.

53. The average duration of Sessions cases was practically the same as in the previous year, 52·4 against 51·6. East and West Berar showed the best results, namely, 44·9 and 47·7 days respectively, while in the Central Provinces the Nagpur Division contributed the lowest duration (50·3 and the Nerbudda Division the highest (62·5). The percentage of convictions in Sessions cases varied in different divisions, the highest being 82 in Jubbulpore and the lowest 46·5 in West Berar. The figure in West Berar was due to the acquittal of 56 out of 85 accused in 5 cases. In all the Sessions Courts 340 cases were disposed of against 297 in the previous year.

Appellate and Revisional Jurisdiction.

54 There was a further increase in the Appellate work of the Judicial Commissioner's Court, the number of appeals from persons convicted rising from 426 to 532. The number of appeals to District Magistrates and other Magistrate empowered to hear appeals also increased, but those to Sessions Courts showed a slight decline. The percentages of cases in which the sentence of the

lower Court was not altered, were 75·8, 73·5, and 61·5 for the Judicial Commissioner's Court, Sessions Courts, and Magistrates' Courts respectively, corresponding very closely with those of the previous year. Two appeals against acquittals were preferred by the Local Government with the result that one order was upheld and the other quashed.

Punishment. 55. Out of 47 death sentences coming before the Judicial Commissioner's Court, 33 were confirmed, and of the balance the sentence was reduced to transportation in 13 cases and to rigorous imprisonment in 1 case. A very marked feature was the decrease in sentences of short terms of imprisonment from 274 to 134. The number of reconvictions also fell from 1,069 to 982. The decrease in sentences of whipping, from 1,037 to 1,164, was due to the fact that under the new Act, IV of 1909, 2nd Class Magistrates cannot exercise whipping powers. During the year, 15 juveniles were sentenced to imprisonment, of whom 2 were sent to a Reformatory School and 2 were released on appeal. Although the number of persons sentenced to payment of fine declined by 1,129, yet the amount of fines imposed rose from Rs. 1,62,693 to Rs. 1,82,414 the percentage of realizations being 91·2, which is very slightly higher than that of 1908.

PRISONS — 5—PRISONS

[Report on the Jails of the Central Provinces for the year 1909, and Part VI of the Statistics of British India.]

General. 56. Except for the substitution of a magisterial lock-up for Sironcha Subsidiary Jail no change was made in the number or classification of Jails during 1900. The Inspector-General proposed to restore the Amraoti District Jail to the status of a Central Jail for Berar, but the Chief Commissioner saw no sufficient reason to alter the present arrangement, which was made in 1907.

Jail population. 57. The daily average of the Jail population rose from 3,536 to 3,833, which may be considered a normal figure for these Provinces. The number of reconvicted prisoners decreased from 1,464 to 1,106.

Jail discipline. 58. The most striking feature in the Jail Report is the unusual increase in the number of punishments, indicating that discipline was strictly enforced. The largest increase occurred in the Jubbulpore Jail. The Chief Commissioner recently inspected that Jail and was satisfied that the disciplinary measures applied were both necessary and efficacious. A small list of offences and punishments may indicate a high state of discipline, but is more often the result of short tasking or laxity on the part of the staff It is perhaps not too much to hope that the higher standard of discipline in Jails which the Inspector-General has consistently sought to attain will help to prevent casual offenders from repeating their crimes.

There were only three escapes during the year against 20 in 1908, which is a very satisfactory decrease and reflects well on the whole of the Jail establishment.

The corporal punishments, meanwhile, decreased from 100 in 1908 to 60 in 1909. This has brought down the ratio of corporal to total punishments to ·33, which is the lowest for the last 20 years.

Health. 59 The Vital Statistics of the year were most satisfactory, and the Raipur Central Jail showed a much better record of health than in the preceding year. The ratios per mille of the daily average sick decreased from 22 for convicts and 16 for undertrials to 18 and 14 respectively, and that of deaths fell from 22 to 16 in respect of convicts and from 23 to 15 in respect of undertrials.

Jail industries. 60. The average number of convicts sentenced to labour increased from 3,465 in 1908 to 3,814 in 1909: the number employed as prison servants decreased from 402·82 to 402 45. The number employed in preparing articles for Jail use increased from 351·88 in 1908 to 530·75 in 1909. The percentage employed on manufactures was 43·16 as against 46·70 in the previous year. The industries carried on in the Jubbulpore Central Jail are the making of carpets, rugs, mattress and pillow cases, cloths and towels. The chief industry of the Nagpur Central Jail is press-work. The Raipur Central Jail manufactures police uniforms and the "jaglia" uniform for Berar, and has now taken over work

on the uniforms of the Central Provinces Railway Police. The District Jails have two chief industries, *viz.*, stone-breaking and aloe-pounding. The statements prescribed for the Department make it appear that Jail industries were far less profitable during the past year than in the year previous, but this is misleading. The difference is chiefly due to a change in the system of accounts. The Jail Department deals largely with other Government Departments, sometimes getting raw materials from one and working them up into manufactured articles for another. It is very difficult to frame accounts which will represent the results justly. It is hoped that the new system will do this better than the old one, and in particular that it will enable sounder comparisons to be made from year to year; but in this first year of the new scheme it is impossible to give a simple comparative statement.

Cost of Jail administration.

61. The average cost per prisoner was Rs. 84-2-11 as against Rs. 87-13-9 in 1908. The charges per head for establishment, dieting, hospital, and so on naturally fluctuate a little from one year to another. During the period under report they all fell slightly, owing partly to the growth in Jail population, but there were no important variations. "Dieting" decreased from Rs. 29-13-0 to Rs. 27-14-0. The net cost per head, according to the new system of accounts, was Rs. 52-6-0—much more than would have been shown under the previous system.

6—CIVIL JUSTICE

CIVIL JUSTICE

[Report on the Judicial Administration (Civil) of the Central Provinces for the year 1909, and Part VI of the Statistics of British India.]

Character of litigation.

62. During the year under report three Civil Districts, namely, Damoh, Balaghat, and Drug, were abolished, the areas formerly included in them being added to the Saugor, Bhandara, and Raipur Districts respectively. The measure was carried through without appreciable difficulty and has been amply justified by results. The number of District Judges' Courts was thus reduced from 20 to 17. Litigation increased in all districts in the Central Provinces and Berar except Chanda. The decrease in Chanda was accounted for by the partial failure of *rabi* crops in the Warora and Chanda Tahsils. The lower taluqs of Sironcha Tahsil were transferred to Madras in July 1909, but the transfer would not affect the statistics much, as the amount of litigation from that territory was insignificant. The most noteworthy feature was the extraordinary increase in litigation in Berar, the number of suits instituted increasing by 41·2 per cent. This was due to the prospect of good crops, to the commercial prosperity caused by the high price of cotton, and to greater promptness in the despatch of case-work. Also the provisions of Section 31 of Act IX of 1908, requiring certain suits for foreclosure and sale to be instituted within 2 years, caused a rush of mortgage suits. The serious outbreak of plague in Nagpur must have checked litigation there.

The percentage of suits in each of the 3 main classes, "for money and moveables," "under the Rent-Law," and "title and other suits," varied slightly from the corresponding figures of 1908, the proportion of suits under the Rent-Law showing a substantial return towards the level of 1906 and 1907. The total value of suits rose from 182 to 234 lakhs. Small Cause Court powers were conferred on only one Court during the year under review, the District Judge, Mandla, being empowered to try suits up to Rs. 50 by summary procedure. The number of suits instituted in Small Cause Courts in the Central Provinces rose from 12,171 to 15,870, while in Berar the corresponding figures were 8,005 and 11,787 respectively.

Pending files.

63. The pending file of suits rose from 28,154 to 31,304, *i. e.*, by 3,150; but it is only 20·1 per cent of the total number of suits before the Courts as against 21·5 per cent in 1908. The number of suits pending over 6 months increased from 8,062 to 11,209, a change for which Berar was entirely responsible. However, the duration of suits very considerably decreased in Berar, though it is still higher there than in the Central Provinces. In some places where there was congestion relief was afforded by temporary transfers, and it is hoped that a redistribution to follow an amendment of the Berar Courts Law, 1905, will result in a considerable reduction of the pending files next year.

Execution of decrees.

64. The number of applications for execution of decrees rose from 100,605 to 119,102, Chanda being the only district to show a decrease. The amount realised increased by Rs. 3,58,805 or 23·9 per cent. The number of applications which were wholly infructuous rose by 16·6 per cent, but their percentage on the total number of applications fell from 54·2 to 51·6. Satisfaction in part or in full was obtained in 18·4 and 21·8 per cent of the decided cases, compared with 17·3 and 21·5 per cent respectively in the previous year. The increase in the pending file in both the Central Provinces and Berar was very slight. More attention was paid to this work and a special circular was issued in February 1909 to secure uniformity of practice in dealing with decree-holders' applications. Insolvency work has increased considerably: the procedure is very imperfectly understood by debtors and creditors alike.

Appellate litigation.

65. The pending file in the Court of the Judicial Commissioner, where three Judges sat throughout the year, rose from 476 to 506, and the total number of appeals, regular and miscellaneous, from 1,381 to 1,457. The percentage of cases in which the lower Courts' decision was left unaltered was 69·8 against 73·1 in the previous year. Although the appellate work, both regular and miscellaneous, of Divisional Judges also increased slightly, it was satisfactory to find reduction in their pending files. The average duration of regular appeals in the Courts of Divisional Judges rose, however, considerably; the attention of the officers concerned has been drawn to the fact. The number of regular appeals pending in District Courts rose from 962 to 1,164. In the Central Provinces the number of institutions in these Courts fell slightly, but in Berar there was a striking increase from 1,070 to 1,306, the pending file growing from 469 to 910. The file of miscellaneous appeals was everywhere insignificant.

Miscellaneous.

66. Throughout the year only two members of the Indian Civil Service worked as District Judges in the Central Provinces. A junior Indian Civilian was also appointed to work as Subordinate Judge at Jubbulpore. Some difficulty has been experienced in finding candidates willing to fill temporary vacancies as officiating Munsiffs for short periods, and care was therefore taken to give continuous employment, as far as possible, to candidates holding officiating posts whose work was satisfactory. The Executive and Judicial Nazarats were, during the year, separated in 5 Civil Districts. The process-serving staff worked well on the whole, though there were several cases of embezzlement, to guard against which proposals were sanctioned for taking security from servers; at the same time Nazirs were relieved from pecuniary responsibility for the mistakes and misdeeds of their subordinates. The Munsiff's Court at Daryapur was the only new building occupied in 1909, but other buildings are in course of construction. Both litigants and pleaders have been somewhat slow in grasping the precise significance of some of the changes which have been introduced in the Civil Procedure Code of 1908, with its relegation of minor provisions to Orders and Rules, but on the whole the Code is reported to have worked well, and many of the new provisions are highly appreciated.

REGISTRATION — 7—REGISTRATION

[Note on the working of the Registration Department in the Central Provinces during the year 1909, and Part VI of the Statistics of British India.]

67. Compulsory registrations affecting immoveable property rose from 65,693 in 1908 to 79,307 in 1909. The increase works out to 23 per cent in the Central Provinces and 19 per cent in Berar and was shared by all districts. The causes assigned for this increase are diverse. General development of the Provinces and a better knowledge of the Registration Law are the chief factors, but good crops and bad crops are both alike reported to have contributed to it. Optional registrations relating to immoveable property have also increased from 2,200 in 1908 to 2,976 in 1909, the whole growth occurring in the Central Provinces. In Berar optional registrations fell from 668 in 1908 to 483 in 1909. The greatest fall is in leases and is due to the partial removal of a misapprehension that the registration of all leases was compulsory.

Registrations affecting moveable property also show some increase. In the Central Provinces they are chiefly effected in Nimar, where over half of the total number of registrations of sales of moveables were registered; but unfortunately

fraudulent sales to defeat creditors have much to do with their popularity. In Berar, however, the high price of cotton led to large sales of standing crops and gave a good reason for an increase.

Receipts rose from Rs. 2,63,208 to Rs. 3 09,997, *i. e.*, by 17 per cent and expenditure from Rs. 1,11 005 to Rs. 1.13.779, *i. e.*, by nearly 2·5 per cent, the causes being increased commission and temporary establishment. If the briskness in registration continues, temporary establishment will further have to be increased. The system of taking thumb-impressions continues to give satisfaction.

8—MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

[Resolution on the working of the Municipal Committees of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1909-1 , and Part VIII of the Statistics of British India.]

Number and constitution of Municipalities.

68. The number of Municipalities at the close of the year 1909-10 remained the same as in the preceding year, *viz.*, 57. The elective principle is in force in all the Municipalities in the Central Provinces, with the exception of Kalmeshwar, Khapa, and Pachmarhi, where the Committees are appointed by nomination. n Berar the system of election was for the first time extended to the Karanja Municipality at the commencement of the year, and there are now only four Municipalities in which the members are appointed by virtue of their office or by nomination. The addition of one member in Seoni, by the nomination of the President, and of two members to represent the large village of Maharajpur included in the Mandla Municipal area, were the only changes in constitution during the year. The attendance of members was generally satisfactory. The interest taken in elections varies very greatly in different places.

Income.

69. The total income of all the Municipalities in the Central Provinces and Berar, excluding opening balances, loans, and account heads, was Rs. 24,30,581 against Rs. 21,63,235 last year. Of this nearly 4 lakhs consisted of contributions by Government for special purposes—these included the cost of the survey and preparation of a sewerage scheme in Nagpur, and a contribution of a lakh to the new water-works under construction in that place, as well as a special grant of over Rs. 20,000 to cover part of the large expenditure on plague. Generally speaking, the good crops tended to raise Municipal income, but the calamitous plague epidemic in Nagpur, and similar visitations in some of the other towns, occasioned counterbalancing loss of revenue. These causes have produced marked variations in individual towns; while some have flourished exceedingly, others are depressed. Direct taxation on houses and lands shows a small rise, this form of tax being most important in Berar. In the case of vehicle taxes and road tolls and in bazar dues there were substantial rises due to excellent crops, but the effects of plague once again reflected in a falling-off under water-works and conservancy taxes. The whole total over both the Central Provinces and Berar shows a rise in taxes proper from Rs. 14,55 000 to Rs. 14,84,000; and in fees and income from Municipal property from Rs. 3,39,000 to Rs. 3,42,000. Had it not been for the plague losses in Nagpur and Jubbulpore, record receipts would probably have been returned he total income from taxation other than octroi in the Central Provinces rose from Rs. 4,41,224 to Rs. 4,53,873, or by Rs. 12,649. The main increase occurred under bazar dues, which amounted to Rs. 19,649, while water-rate and conservancy show a falling-off of Rs. 9,552 and Rs. 4,859, respectively. Of the total increase from the bazar tax, the Nagpur Division alone accounts for about Rs. 15 000; but the increase is common to almost all Municipalities. The decrease in water-rate and conservancy occurs mainly in the Nagpur Municipality due to the appearance of plague. In Berar, where there is no octroi the income rose by Rs. 11,657, the income under "Tolls on roads and ferries" showing the largest increase. Substantial increases also occurred under taxes on houses and lands and on professions and trades.

Expenditure.

70. The total opening balance of all Municipalities in the Central Provinces at the beginning of the year was Rs. 5,82,835, while the total receipts amounted to Rs. 27 41,536, making a sum of Rs. 33,27,371 available for expenditure. The total disbursements, including extraordinary and debt heads, amounted to

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

Rs. 24,50,468, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 8,76,903. The actual expenditure, excluding extraordinary and debt heads, amounted to Rs. 21,75,532, showing an increase of Rs. 2,58,117 over the figures of the preceding year. The cost of general administration rose from Rs. 88,722 to Rs. 90,932, or by Rs. 2,210, while the cost of collection of taxes decreased by Rs. 19,517, or from 13 to 11 per cent, on the total amount of rates and taxes collected. This cannot be considered in any way excessive. Plague charges rose from Rs. 41,340 to Rs. 65,476, or by Rs. 24,136, and were incurred in nearly every Municipality in the Central Provinces. Provincial aid in this connection has been liberally rendered, and every Municipality has spent as much as can reasonably be expected for the purpose. In Berar the total opening balance of all the Municipalities decreased from Rs. 2,38,611 to Rs. 1,91,997, or by Rs. 46,614. The total ordinary expenditure amounted to Rs. 3,43,943, which was less than the total income (Rs. 3,57,488), and also less than the expenditure of the previous year which amounted to Rs. 3,87,892. General Administration charges fell by Rs. 397, while there was a slight increase, *viz.*, Rs. 232, in the cost of collection of taxes All the Municipalities spent less on conservancy, plague, and buildings and roads, a further reason for the decrease in expenditure being the fact that throughout the previous year grain compensation was paid to Municipal employés, while this charge was incurred only for a month during the year under report. The Akola Municipality had, however, increased its expenditure on account of establishment for collection of the toll tax, the improvement of conservancy, and repairs to drains and roads. The capital outlay on water-works and drainage amounted to Rs. 4,64,792 against Rs. 60,536 in 1908-09. This large expenditure is spread over the Municipalities of Nagpur, Hinganghat, Jubbulpore, Seoni, Harda, Khandwa, and Burhanpur. Work has advanced considerably on the Gorewara Reservoir, which will supply water to the town and Civil Station of Nagpur. The Harda water-works have just been completed, and the water-supply at Seoni has been improved. A much larger expenditure on water-works and drainage will be undertaken in the near future. Nagpur is just about to embark on its new sewerage scheme, which it will take many years to complete, and a similar scheme is being prepared for Jubbulpore by Messrs. Lane-Brown and Hewlett, Sanitary Engineers. The same firms are engaged on surface drainage schemes for several towns, one for Wardha being now ready. Several schemes for improving the water-supply of towns are also under investigation.

Loans.

71. There are 12 Municipalities, *viz.*, Nagpur, Wardha, Bhandara, Hinganghat, Jubbulpore, Raipur, Drug, Khandwa, Burhanpur, Harda, Akola, and Amraoti Camp, which have taken loans from Government; and two Municipalities, *viz.*, Saoner and Seoni, which have had loans from private persons. The second instalment of Rs. 3,50,000 towards the loan for the Gorewara project was paid to the Nagpur Municipality during the year under report. A fresh liability during the year, of Rs. 1,70,000 for the extension of the town, was incurred by the Jubbulpore Municipality. Khandwa and Harda also took loans of Rs. 10,000 and Rs 50,000, respectively, for water-works, while Drug took a loan of Rs. 6, 00 for the construction of measuring sheds and a yard for carts at the ganj. The total balance outstanding at the close of 1909-10 on account of Government loans amounted to Rs. 16,34,709. Of this sum, the Nagpur and Jubbulpore Municipalities, which are the largest borrowers, showed balances of Rs. 6,75,538 and Rs 441,163, respectively The financial position of both these Municipalities is sound, but plague continuing year after year has caused heavy losses. and these Committees should increase rather than relax their efforts to combat the scourge.

DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS

9—DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS

[Resolution on the working of the District Councils and Local Boards for 1909-10, and Part VIII of the Statistics of British India.]

Number, constitution, meetings and attendance.

72. The formal reconstitution of the Drug District Council and the Local Boards subordinate to it was effected during the course of the year to replace the provisional arrangement made when Drug was formed into a new district. The formation of the new tahsils of Saoner in Nagpur, Patan in Jubbulpore, and

Bhainsdehi in Betul has also brought into existence three new Local Boards and caused a redistribution of representation, the net result of which has been an increase in the strength of Councils and Boards in the Central Provinces. There have been no changes in Berar. The question of bringing the Mandla District under the Local Self-Government Act was once more examined; but it has not been found possible to constitute a Council and Board for that District The malguzars and patels over the wilder parts of the district are almost all illiterate, while the majority of the proprietors of the better villages are absentee landlords, most of whom are not even resident in the district. The constitution of the informal District Fund Committee has, however, been enlarged by the addition of more non-official members, and an Advisory Sub-Committee for the distant Dindori tahsil has been formed. These informal arrangements for obtaining non-official help in the management of local affairs must continue for some time until education, trade, and the general progress of the country have developed to a much greater extent than can at present be anticipated. Similar arrangements are in existence in the remote Sironcha tahsil of the Chanda district and in some of the wilder zamindaris. The interest taken in elections is still painfully small, and such proportions of voters to electors as 227 out of 10,238, 372 out of 8,709, 44 out of 1,877, 72 out of 1,622, and, at a by-election, 3 out of 53 are reported in the year under review. Much of this apparently hopeless apathy is, however, due to the fact that the local notables of each circle are re-elected time after time, and everybody in the neighbourhood accepts their candidature and election as a matter of course. Occasionally there is some small competition, but it very soon settles down again. At the same time, on the whole, it must be said that the best men available have generally been elected, and that the possession of a seat upon the Local Board is regarded as a desirable dignity by the holder The very exiguous funds and the trivial nature of the business carried out by Local Boards for many years past fully accounts for the lack of interest and poor attendance at meetings; but there are always a few members —and their number is now increasing —who take a genuine interest in the schools and other institutions of their Circles.

Income and Expenditure.

73. In the year under review matters have followed the usual current. In the Central Provinces the income and expenditure both show a small increase. In Berar, where the Boards have been spending largely out of previously accumulated balances, a halt has had to be called, and, though receipts increased, expenditure was largely curtailed. The extension of the Village Sanitation Act to Berar is an important step taken during the year; it should put an end to the diversion of the Boards' funds to town improvements in small townships, which, though not sufficiently advanced for Municipal government, are yet quite prosperous enough to provide funds for their own conservancy, drains, and water-supply. Education is the object on which Councils and Boards grudge nothing and are, indeed, prone to spend too large a proportion out of their limited resources. It has generally been held that 33 per cent of the total income may properly be devoted to education. But the average for the whole of the Central Provinces during the year was 35 per cent, and the Wardha District Council spent over 50 per cent on this object. Laudable as is this desire, it cannot be permitted to be indulged at the cost of starving all other necessary objects, and it is still far too common for Councils to open new schools for which there are no buildings or trained masters, and then come to the Administration for special grants. The number of primary schools in the Central Provinces was at the close of the year 1,616, or 30 more than in the year preceding; in Berar these schools increased in number from 605 to 617. The Councils in the Central Provinces also maintained 96 Middle Schools and the Boards in Berar 127, the total expenditure on education being $5\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs and 3 lakhs respectively. These figures represent a great advance on those of a few years ago, and it is not possible for the Administration, which is increasing its Education budget year by year, in order to meet the growing cost of secondary and higher education, to supplement further the liberal contributions already given to Local Bodies for primary education Under Civil Works the position is still not at all satisfactory. Nothing like the amount of the road cess is spent by the Councils on roads proper in the Central Provinces, and large lapses on the budget allotments for Civil Works have been allowed to occur in several districts. The scheme for the better supervision of roads, which is now about to be introduced, will provide

DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS

for a stronger staff under a separate Local Fund Divisional Engineer, who will be able to take over the supervision of a number of roads now maintained from Provincial Funds, the maintenance allotments now provided in the Provincial Budget being simultaneously handed over to Councils and Boards, by which means the pressure on the Public Works Department will also be greatly relieved. When this better staff has been provided, there should not be much more heard of money wasted on bad work, of frauds by overseers and contractors in collusion, and of continued lapses because of the delay in the preparation of plans and estimates.

District Funds subsidise 133 dispensaries, and meet all the cost of vaccination. They have, however, been relieved of the cost of Veterinary Assistants, which service has been provincialised. Rural sanitation is almost confined to water-supply in the shape of wells, and the question crops up annually as to how far the rule requiring at least half the cost to be contributed from private sources should be enforced. Where the people are really eager for a well to be constructed, local aid in the shape of money, labour or materials is generally forthcoming, but where, as in most parts of Chhattisgarh, the people much prefer tank water, and will only use well water under considerable persuasion, or pressure, such assistance is naturally not readily given. The rule in such cases cannot be rigidly enforced. Regard must be paid to the condition of the community concerned; but, generally speaking the demand of half the total sum required is reasonable and proper. In former days the charitable and religious sentiments of the well-to-do were a powerful agency in providing wells and groves for the benefit of the public, but the modern tendency is for the people more and more to expect the Government or the Local Bodies to supply them with all their wants gratis, and less and less to depend on their own exertions. In Berar, as already noticed, much expenditure is incurred on sanitation in the small towns, which these towns ought to provide for themselves.

MILITARY

10—MILITARY (VOLUNTEERING)

Number of active Corps.

74. There are two Volunteer Corps in the Provinces, the Nagpur Volunteer Rifles and the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Rifles.

The Nagpur Volunteer Rifles.

75. The enrolled strength of the Nagpur Volunteer Rifles rose from 917 to 1,124, of whom 28 were Commissioned Officers. Of this total figure, 1,037 were extra-efficient, 46 efficient, and 13 non-efficient. Marksmen numbered 297 against 175 last year. The expenditure was heavy, and a large sum had again to be taken from the capitation grant to meet the cost of the band. Funds are needed for the acquisition of new rifle ranges in some places. The Camp of Exercise was held from the 19th to the 26th January 1910, both days inclusive; it was attended by 10 officers and 329 men. The mounted troops made good progress, the number of efficients rising from 76 to 92. The Volunteer Institute, with 95 members, an increase of 22 during the year, promotes the social side of volunteering. The interest in the Ladies' Rifle and Revolver Club—which now uses service weapons—was fully maintained throughout the year.

The Bengal-Nagpur Railway Rifles.

76. The Bengal-Nagpur Railway Corps is divided into two battalions, the first of which is under the administrative control of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, its head-quarters being at Kharagpur in Bengal, while the second has its head-quarters at Nagpur. The total enrolled strength of the second battalion on the 31st March 1909 was 487 (including 17 officers) as against 491 in the previous year. Only 5 men failed to qualify as efficient or extra-efficient. The financial position of the Corps is satisfactory. A Camp of Exercise of both battalions was held at Khurda Road, and was attended by 118 officers and men of the second battalion, the various schemes being in connection with the defence of the railway. The Inspector-General of Volunteers in India considered that the corps was in a very satisfactory state.

CHAPTER IV

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

1—AGRICULTURE.

AGRICULTURE

[Reports on the working of the Department of Agriculture and on the Agricultural Stations of the Central Provinces for the year ending 30th June 1910.]

77. The work of the Department continues to grow at a quicker rate than its establishment; promising fields have to be left practically untouched for lack of a sufficient superior staff, both European and Indian, and there must be a danger of an attempt to undertake too much, with the inevitable accompaniment of a decline in the high standard of efficiency now attained. The Chief Commissioner has lately addressed the Government of India with a view to a considerable extension of the establishment.

Agricultural Education.

78. The College still lacks complete laboratory accommodation, and the arrangements for instruction in entomology and agricultural engineering have been inadequate. However, measures were taken during the year to secure speedy correction of these defects. The number of passed students turned out annually is steadily increasing. The number admitted during the year under report was unusually low, but this was due to fortuitous circumstances, especially perhaps to disgust at the connection of the College with the defacement of the statue of Queen Victoria. The College is better filled now than ever before; its tone is excellent; and the Principal has been careful to make the course thoroughly practical. The malguzari class did badly. Perhaps the time has not yet come for such a class to be successful; it may be found better to substitute short classes at different stations for instruction in particular subjects. The Agricultural Gazette continues to extend its circulation, which now amounts to more than 5,500; it is supplied to most schools. The articles are, with rare exceptions, contributed by members of the Department; the subjects are well chosen and clearly dealt with in simple language.

Agricultural enquiry and demonstrati on

79. No new lines of experiment were started during the year, but further progress was made in several important efforts. *Buri* cotton has more than maintained its reputation as the best of the longer stapled cottons grown in these Provinces. It appears to be still improving under the process of selection to which it is submitted at Akola, and will probably be deserving of extensive trial if it does not deteriorate during the next three or four years. It is free from wilt and is especially suitable for heavy land. It does not give quite such a large return as a heavy crop of *jari* or *kathi wilayati*, but may prove the more valuable crop for particular large areas. Its introduction in large quantities into the commercial world will involve some revision of the present grading of cottons, but it is to be hoped that this will form no serious obstacle. A promising series of manurial experiments in cotton is also being carried on at Akola; a combination of a nitrogenous fertilizer with farmyard manure seems likely to be of great value. Experiments at the Hoshangabad Farm suggest that unirrigated rabi crops respond less to the application of manure than do cotton and rice. This gives an added importance to the application of water to the land. At the Labandih Farm groundnut has been shown to be a valuable crop in a rice country, both as a sole crop and when followed by wheat with irrigation. Bone-dust has been shown to form a very valuable manure for rice. A large slaughtering establishment at present exists in the centre of the Chhattisgarh rice country, and if suitable plant were erected the use of bone-dust on a large scale might be introduced; the Satnami Chamars of the country would have no caste objection. A most important feature of the work of the experiment stations was the great increase in the receipts, especially

at Akola and Labandih. It seems probable that when managed, as they must be to attain the best results, in connection with large farms, the produce, in cotton and rice country, should suffice to cover not only the cost of the cultivation but also that of the demonstration operations connected with the station. It is very doubtful, however, whether in rabi country the natural conditions will ever permit so large a profit to be made.

District Associations.

80. Extensive demonstration operations continued in Chhattisgarh on the same lines as before, with the addition of a new item—double-cropping with ground-nut and wheat under irrigation. They were, as usual, managed on a much smaller scale in the cotton and wheat tracts, being concerned chiefly with the supervision of private seed farms and the use of implements. A method of preventing the attacks of the potato-moth, which was introduced with Italian seed-potatoes, was taught. The produce of the cotton seed farms was, for the first time, sold without the intervention of the Department; the result was most satisfactory, disclosing a strong demand for the seed at high prices. An effort will be made to provide seed on an increasing scale. A good commencement has been made with a similar scheme in the wheat country. The Agricultural Chemist and Economic Botanist are employed principally in lecturing at the College, but both found time for some research work. The demand for implements of European manufacture increases very slowly. The Agricultural Associations in several districts continue to show the active interest in the improvement of agriculture which was mentioned last year, and form an invaluable link between the Department and the farmer. The Department has further developed its good relations with cultivators, and has certainly strengthened its position in the Province.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES

1-(*a*)—CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES

[Report on the working of Co-operative Credit Societies, Central Provinces and Berar, for the year ending 31st March 1910.]

Co-operative Credit Societies.

81. Owing to a change in the Co-operative Credit year the last report refers to a period of 9 months only. It is impossible to fix the beginning and end of the co-operative year at a time which is satisfactory for all purposes, because the times at which loans are advanced and recovered in rural societies vary largely with the character of the cropping The date now fixed is the most convenient for the important purpose of the auditing of the accounts. However, the circumstances render the figures less simple than they might be expected to be; allowances for the action of a variety of factors must be made in their interpretation. As in the preceding year, the official staff confined their efforts, apart from audit, to reorganizing. No fresh ground has been broken. An increase has occurred in the number of societies and in the bulk of their work, but this growth has been spontaneous.

Societies.

82 Altogether 52 rural societies were registered in the nine months of the past year. No society was wound up, although a Central Bank at Harda is being substituted for the Charwa Rural Society. All the new societies in Jubbulpore were investigated by the Sehora Bank before the applications reached the Registrar. This investigation by the non-official financing agency ensures that a new society shall start on a sound business footing and on true co-operative lines. The sum of the local knowledge and influence possessed by the directorate of such a financing society is very large, and its own interests demand caution and a close adherence to approved principles. This development may possibly prove a very important practical contribution to the vexed question of organization.

Working Societies.

83. These Provinces contain five Central Banks together with a somewhat similar organization called the Kirnapur Union. The number of members in the Central Banks has increased from 628 to 663, the working capital from Rs. 52,000 to Rs. 97,000. The chief Central Bank is that at Sehora, the working capital of which rose from Rs. 14,000 to nearly half a lakh. It received a loan of half a lakh from the Allahabad Bank and its deposits also increased. It financed 52 rural societies and paid a dividend of 6 per cent The Betul Central Bank is less satisfactorily managed, but its capital rose from Rs. 17,000 to Rs. 19,000, and it

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES

paid a dividend of 5 per cent. The Sironcha Central Bank is interesting because it has to deal with a fertile area curiously isolated in financial matters from the outer world and almost completely dominated by a small band of local saokars. Its capital during the year was only Rs. 3,000, but more recently it has received a loan of another Rs. 3,000 from the Ahiri Estate. It is hoped that outside capital will be attracted by the making of unmistakable profits. The Akola Central Bank has a capital of over Rs. 10,000, but only Rs. 1,500 were out in loans at the end of the year. It appears that the movement in Akola is still waiting for its missionary.

Urban Banks.

84. The Urban Banks have worked well, their total capital now being Rs. 69,000. The Hatta Society in Balaghat is to be congratulated on starting a system for financing particular industries. It has advanced money to the Kasar community on joint responsibility for carrying on and improving the trade in brassware. The Balaghat Urban Bank has secured well over Rs. 3,000 in compulsory deposits intended to induce thrift. Every Bank except Baihar had a reserve fund by the end of the year (and at Baihar one was started after the end of March). Debts have, on the whole, been well paid up. In Burhanpur, where there are men of many different castes and interests, a large number of loans are overdue, but steps are being taken to correct this. The Nagpur Press Society is doing better than before; but the Official Bank at Betul finds difficulty in controlling its scattered members. The weak points of these Urban Banks used to be insufficient scrutiny of the character of members and absence of community of interest between members. The past year has shown that the Banks have recognized the existence of these defects and are removing them.

Rural Banks.

85. The total number of rural societies is 139, including 22 in the Kirnapur Union. The capital of the ordinary rural societies rose from Rs. 90,000 to Rs. 1,25,000, apart from the Rs. 15,000 employed by the Kirnapur Union. Debts have been, on the whole, paid up well, particularly in the case of the smaller societies.

In some of the Betul societies which combine share capital with unlimited liability a dividend was paid to members in defiance of the Act. This form of constitution appears to be undesirable in these Provinces. The leading principle must remain the provision of cheap money for necessary purposes. If the profit-making spirit gains the upper hand speculative and commercial motives will come into play which are incompatible with the completely successful working of an unlimited liability society. The societies have, sometimes at least, useful effects on the general morality and economy of the village. The small society has the marked advantage that it can more thoroughly scrutinize the qualifications of candidates for membership. It is a promising sign that the criterion actually applied is a man's character, not his wealth. Societies with specialised objects have spontaneously come into existence in Balaghat and Jubbulpore. Such purposes are land improvement, the repayment of old debts, and the improvement of the status of the backward tenant.

Resources.

86. It is too early to form a very decided opinion about the sufficiency of local resources to meet the ultimate demands of co-operative societies. The credit given by the Allahabad Bank in Jubbulpore has been of great assistance; it practically forms a permanent advance against which the Central Bank can draw. As other Central Banks make their way, they also will probably be able to obtain similar facilities. Co-operation provides the essential guarantee of security, the absence of which has hitherto prevented the large banking firms from extensive dealing with the cultivating classes. In certain villages in Jubbulpore the debts of particular tenants were reduced with the creditor's consent; a society of these tenants was formed, and fresh loans to cover the old debts and the requirements of the year were advanced. This may mean the tapping of another source of income. It should certainly be of the greatest value to the parties concerned.

An admirable little manual on co-operative credit has been issued during the year by Mr. Crosthwaite, and since the close of the year the Government of India have sanctioned the creation of a separate post of Registrar of Co-operative Credit Societies. The progress of the movement has, on the whole, been very satisfactory.

1 (*b*)—VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

[Report on the working of the Civil Veterinary Department of the Central Provinces during the year ending the 31st March 1910.]

The Veterinary Department.

87. The Department was provincialized in 1909, and the hope expressed at the time that this would improve recruiting is apparently being realized, as the number of Veterinary Assistants recruited has been larger and that resigning smaller than in previous years. Good compounders are very necessary to deal with simple cases in the absence of the Veterinary Assistant, but they are hard to find. The Superintendent and the Director of Agriculture have been asked to consider how they can best be secured. The difficulty of undermanning is equally conspicuous in the highest grades. The Department needs a Superintendent, an Assistant Superintendent, and a Deputy Superintendent; but, through the lack of facilities for post-graduate training, no one qualified to hold the post of Deputy Superintendent has yet been found. An Assistant Superintendent, Mr. F. Ware, an officer of the Imperial Service, was appointed in November 1909, but had to officiate as Superintendent from February 1910. Inoculation for rinderpest has increased, but was stopped early in the year owing to failure of the serum-supply from Muktesar. Major Baldrey is improving the organization needed to secure prompt action when epidemics occur. Various measures for the improvement of the local cattle are being undertaken, especially the institution in Chhattisgarh of a feeding demonstration and of cattle shows, at which condition will be the principal criterion of merit. Inspectors did not attend so many outbreaks of epidemic disease as they should. Except in a few large towns the dispensaries are valuable, mainly as an advertisement of the Department and as a means of increasing its prestige, which facilitates the execution of measures directed to the prevention of epidemic disease and the general amelioration of the conditions in which cattle are kept.

2—WEATHER AND CROPS

WEATHER AND CROPS

[Season and Crop Report of the Central Provinces for the year 1909-10; area and yield of certain principal crops in India, 1909-10.]

Rainfall.

88. The beginning of June was marked by preliminary showers, but the heavy burst of the monsoon was deferred until the 28th. The rainfall during the month was practically normal in Berar and was 20 and 17 per cent in defect in the west and east of the Central Provinces respectively. The rainfall in July was in excess of the normal in the east of the Central Provinces and in defect in Berar and the west of the Provinces, the deficiency being most marked in Berar (38 per cent). The rainfall in August, though below the normal, was opportune. The rain in September was again well distributed and the breaks occurred at the right time. The month of October was absolutely rainless in the western portion of the Provinces and almost so in the east. No rain fell anywhere in November, although in normal years most of the rain-gauge stations record falls ranging from 20 cents to an inch. The weather in December 1909 was remarkably wet; in fact, it was the wettest December since 1902. The month's aggregate precipitation was in excess of the normal by about 4 inches in Berar and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in the Central Provinces. Light showers were received in eight districts in the first week of January, but the total measurements were below the average everywhere, except locally at Jubbulpore. Little or no rain fell in February, although nearly half an inch is usually received in that month. The weather was very dry in March, and drier than usual in April. The total average rainfall during the year for the Central Provinces as a whole was 41·01 inches, as compared with 48·39, the average for the preceding 42 years. For Berar the total rainfall averaged 33·58 inches as against 30·41, the average for the preceding 16 years. All the districts except five received less than the average rainfall.

Character of the season.

89. The rainfall was so well distributed and so favourably timed that the cropped area of the Central Provinces rose by 872,000 acres (5 per cent), the occupied area meanwhile increasing by 166,000 acres. In Berar there was no considerable change. The prospects of the kharif harvest were very good in almost all districts till the beginning of November. In that month, however, want of moisture slightly damaged crops in some parts, and in December the

heavy rain hampered all harvest operations. The area sown with kharif crops in the Central Provinces increased by 558,300 acres (5 per cent) over that of the previous year, while in Berar it advanced by 61,000 acres, or about 1 per cent. The rabi area of the Central Provinces and Berar together showed an increase of 153,000 acres (2 per cent), all Divisions except Chhattisgarh and Berar sharing in the recovery. The increase was due to favourable climatic conditions at the time of sowing. The December rain was of the greatest benefit to spring crops. The outturns of some of the principal crops are described in the following paragraphs :—

Yield of the autumn (kharif) crops.

90. *Rice.*—The area under rice showed an increase of 287,000 acres (6 per cent) over that of 1908-09, the expansion being due to good rain in most parts at the time of sowing. However, the rainfall in Chhattisgarh, the chief tract for rice sown broadcast, was ill distributed; the area sown with rice there remained stationary, while the outturn fell off somewhat from that of last year. For the Provinces as a whole the outturns of broadcast and transplanted rice amounted to 83 and 98 per cent respectively, against 99 and 107 in the preceding year.

Juar.—Juar, which is largely grown as a mixture with arhar, occupied 2,087,139 acres in the Central Provinces, or 53,617 acres (3 per cent) more than the area sown in the previous year. The area in Berar decreased by 64,538 acres (2 per cent), owing to the substitution of other kharif crops where germination proved defective on account of excessive moisture. The total yield for the Central Provinces and Berar was 93 per cent, which is larger by about one-third than that of the preceding year.

Cotton.—In the Central Provinces there was again a slight fall of 23,068 acres, or 2 per cent, in the area covered by cotton, but in Berar the area increased by 11,462 acres (·38 per cent). The area under cotton in the Provinces as a whole reached its maximum in the year 1905-06 and has been steadily decreasing since then. This is partly owing to adverse climatic conditions; moreover, in Berar the necessity for sowing a substantial area with juar, which is needed both for human food and for fodder, limits the extension of the cotton area. The estimated outturn of cotton in the year under report ranged from 60 to 150 per cent of a normal crop, as compared with 30 to 98 per cent in the preceding year.

Til.—The favourable climatic conditions at the time of sowing, combined with the high prices obtainable for til, caused an expansion of the area under that crop in all districts except Hoshangabad, Nimar and Chhindwara, where the area sown remained practically the same as in the previous year. Rabi-til in Hoshangabad was damaged by insects and was consequently ploughed up and replaced by other spring crops. In the Central Provinces and Berar the area increased by 147,503 acres (21 per cent) and 5,182 acres (5 per cent) respectively. For the Central Provinces and Berar together the yield was 105 per cent, as compared with 80 in 1908-09.

Yield of the spring (rabi) crops.

Wheat.—The area placed under wheat and wheat-gram in the Central Provinces amounted to 3,020,447 acres and exceeded the previous year's figures by 285,000 acres (10 per cent). All districts showed increases except Wardha, where there was a decrease of 22,000 acres (17 per cent). The proportion of wheat-gram to the whole wheat area was 44 as against 50, 44, and 32 per cent in the three preceding years. In Berar the wheat area increased by 9,000 acres or 3 per cent. The result of the favourable season was a bumper crop for the Provinces as a whole.

Linseed.—The area under linseed decreased in the Central Provinces by 11,823 acres or 1 per cent. Much of this crop is grown in the Chhattisgarh Division as a second crop after rice, the seed being thrown into the standing rice crop just before harvest and left to take its chance without any assistance from cultivators, except that they weed it once in January. In this most important linseed-growing tract the area contracted considerably, chiefly on double-cropped land, owing to want of moisture in the ground at the time of sowing. In Berar, the area fell by 8,550 acres (14 per cent), owing largely to the extension in the growth of cotton. The outturn of the Provinces as a whole was 92 per cent, which is practically the same as that of last year.

HORTICULTURE

3—HORTICULTURE

[Report on the management of the Provincial and District Gardens of the Central Provinces for the year 1909-10.]

Provincial Gardens.

91. The rainfall recorded at the Maharaj Bagh, 56·73 inches, was more than that in the previous year, 44·9 inches; but a prolonged drought from January to May affected plants adversely, while a hailstorm in May did much damage to fruit and trees. Mangoes gave a large crop, as also did sapotas, the latter is a fruit not much known locally. There was a further increase in the number of plants sold and distributed, 22,217 being thus disposed of against 12,478 in the previous year. At Telinkheri the gardens were maintained in good condition, and there was a small increase in income over that of the previous year and an increase of 1,057 in the number of plants sold. At Pachmarhi there was a shortage in the rainfall by about 24 inches as compared with the average; but, though dry, the season was on the whole favourable to horticulture. Both the demand for and the supply of vegetables was good. At the Pagara garden a large area was sown with lucerne and horse carrots, the supply being sufficient to meet the demand. The crop of peaches, plums, mangoes, mulberries, plantains, papayas, and raspberries was satisfactory, but strawberries failed to mature owing to the very hot weather. The show of flowers was excellent, the display of chrysanthemums and dahlias in October being particularly fine. There was again a considerable increase in the receipts of both the gardens, while 930 plants were sold and distributed. In the Botanical garden at Nagpur there were 234 named specimens, amongst the chief additions being coffee-bushes from Chikalda and a number of ferns and orchids collected in the district.

District Gardens.

92. Although several district gardens again suffered from lack of water during the hot weather, the season was on the whole good. Vegetables and fruit gave good crops, with the result that receipts rose from Rs. 8,729 in 1908-09 to Rs. 10,720 in 1909-10, while expenditure fell from Rs. 33,328 to Rs. 29,833. An unsatisfactory feature in the year's record was the decrease, of nearly 4,000, in the number of plants sold and distributed.

Court of Wards' Gardens.

93. Gardens were maintained by the Court of Wards in Wardha and in Chanda. The Ahiri Court of Wards reports a further deficit owing to poor vegetable and fruit crops. Plants distributed from this garden during the year numbered 237. No detailed report has yet come from Wardha.

FORESTS

4—FORESTS

[Reports from the Conservators of Forests of the Northern, Southern and Berar Circles, on the Forest Administration in the Central Provinces, for the year 1909-10 and Review thereon.]

Forest areas.

94. Apart from exchanges between the various classes of State forest, there was, at the end of the year, a net decrease of 485 square miles in the area of forest borne on the books of the Department. The most important change was the transfer to Madras of 518 square miles which formed the Cherla Range of the South Chanda Division; this loss was to a small extent counterbalanced by a gain of 33 square miles, due mainly to recalculation of areas in accordance with the Survey sheets and to transfers from the G and H lands in Berar. The small area of 3 square miles of unclassed State forests was also disposed of during the year, part being transferred to the A Class and part handed over to the Revenue Department. Settlement operations were completed in 4·24 square miles and were in progress in 13·45 square miles at the end of the year. The Settlement of the C-III Class forests in the Melghat Taluk in Berar, referred to in last year's report, was completed by an Assistant Commissioner, and his proposals are under the consideration of the Administration. It is expected that they are likely to result in the addition to the permanent State forests of 12 blocks with an aggregate area of some 390 square miles, the small villages situated in this area being transferred to the control of the Forest Department as forest villages, after suitable arrangements have been made to continue to them the concessions they have enjoyed previously. Another settlement matter with which progress has been made is the acquisition of small areas of revenue land enclosed in the Kinwat forest in Berar and the separation of the mixed revenue and forest villages.

95. The outlay on demarcation amounted to Rs. 21,684, being an increase of Rs. 414 over the expenditure of the previous year; of this amount 87 per cent was expended on the maintenance of boundary marks. New demarcation to the extent of 103 miles was effected at a cost of Rs. 27 per mile. The total length of forest boundaries in the whole Province at the close of the year was 36,865 miles, of which 92 per cent are artificially marked. Considerable attention was paid to the important question of simplifying boundaries by exchanges of land and by the elimination of unnecessary pillars, while some progress was made also with the widening of boundary lines where necessary. The survey of the A and B Class forests of Berar on the scale of 2 miles to 1 inch and of boundary survey maps on the scale of 4 miles to 1 inch was continued during the year, and arrangements were made for the survey of the more important blocks of C Class forests over 1 square mile in area. **Demarcation and survey.**

96. The only working-plan that received sanction during the year was the revised plan for the Bori forest in Hoshangabad, which covers an area of 42 square miles, but the revised plan for the forest in the Bhandara Division, comprising 524 square miles, was completed; it could not, however, be submitted to the Inspector-General of Forests till after the close of the year. New plans, or revisions of old plans, were in various stages of compilation for the Chhindwara, Bilaspur, Nagpur, Wardha, South Chanda, Amraoti, Yeotmal, and Buldana Forest Divisions. The area for which working-plans have been sanctioned is 12,641 square miles; that for which plans were commenced during the year is 758 square miles, and that for which plans are still required 5,935 square miles; but the first of these figures includes several Divisions in which revision is in progress or is required. Preliminary working-plan reports for 2,642 square miles were submitted to and orders passed on them by the Inspector-General of Forests during the year; these comprised the Bilaspur, South Chanda, Nagpur, Wardha, Amraoti, and Buldana Divisions. The special Revenue Officer completed his enquiry into the proposals of the revised working-plan for Chhindwara in so far as they affect the supply of grazing and forest produce to the Agricultural population of the district. **Working-plans.**

97. The expenditure incurred during the year on new roads and paths was Rs. 40,568 as compared with Rs. 61,081 in the previous year. In all 195 miles of new roads were made at an average cost of Rs. 208 per mile, the most important works being located in the Bilaspur, Balaghat, Hoshangabad, and Buldana Divisions. A sum of Rs. 76,096 was laid out on new buildings, more than half of which was expended on the construction of quarters for subordinates. The main work of the year was confined to the Southern Circle, which spent Rs. 44,805 out of the total, including Rs. 5,828 on a Museum for the Balaghat Forest School. Great progress was made in the improvement of water-supply, 8 tanks and 106 wells being completed. This matter is now receiving careful attention, and an Overseer of the Public Works Department has been deputed for supervising the selection, survey, and construction of works. **Roads, buildings, tanks and wells.**

98. The number of forest offences reported during the year was 9,302, which was 1,080 or 13 per cent above the number of 1908-09. This increase was mainly under the head "Injury by fire," and was practically confined to the Northern and Southern Circles. The number of cases taken into Court was 301, or 3 per cent of the total; convictions were obtained in 88 per cent of the cases in Berar, 74 per cent in the Northern Circle, and 72 per cent in the Southern Circle. The number of cases compounded was 7,985, or 84 per cent of the total. The average amount of compensation realized per person was Rs. 2-5-5 in the Northern Circle and Rs. 2-2-8 in the Southern Circle, while in Berar it varied from Re. 0-13-9 in the Melghat to Rs. 4 in Nimar, due to several cases of timber theft. **Forest offences.**

99. The fire season was a very unfavourable one owing to heavy winter rains which prevented the lines being burnt early in the season, and to the total absence of showers during the hot weather. Under these circumstances it is satisfactory to note that the whole of the Allapilli teak forests were successfully protected and that the failures in Divisions such as Seoni, Hoshangabad, Bhandara, Melghat, and Yeotmal were all less than 2·5 per cent. Continued attention was paid to the desirability of extending fire-protection, and the area so protected rose from 11,564 to 11,795 square miles, which represents 67 per **Protection from fire.**

cent of the permanent Government forests, excluding the C Class in Berar. The total cost of fire-protection in the three Circles amounted to Rs. 1,09,264 and the average cost of protection was Rs. 9-4-3 per square mile: both of these figures represent slight decreases as compared with previous year.

Exploitation, sylviculture and management.

100. As compared with last year the area worked in Berar under systematic methods of treatment fell from 63,982 acres to 58,590 acres, while in the Northern Circle the area to which improvement or coppice with standard fellings extended also decreased from 30,152 acres to 25,458 acres, though the number of trees marked for selection fellings was 4,965 against 2,875 in 1908-09. In the Southern Circle the area treated by selection, improvement and coppice with standard fellings rose from 28,439 acres to 35,769 acres, there being a corresponding decrease of 7,535 acres in the area from which poles only could be removed. Artificial regeneration of importance was confined to the Chirori scrub forest and the numerous *babul bans* in the Berar Circle. The system in force is that of the combined cultivation of field and forest crops and the results are generally satisfactory. Increased attention was paid to the promotion of bamboo plantations in the Berar Circle. The total outturn of major forest produce rose from 21 to 22 million cubic feet. The outturn of timber fell by less than one per cent, while that of fuel increased by 6 per cent. The proportion of the total outturn of major produce removed by Government agency was 7·4 per cent. Under minor produce the value of bamboos removed from the forests increased by 20 per cent, from Rs 1,69,481 to Rs. 2,03,889: but there were decreases in removals of grass and other minor produce. The cultivation of lac was continued, but the results are still unsatisfactory.

Financial results.

101. The total revenue of the year fell by Rs. 39,538, or 2 per cent, which is ascribable entirely to a decrease of 7 per cent in the revenue derived from grass and grazing, as the increase derived from other minor produce more than counterbalanced small decreases in the timber, fuel, and miscelleneous heads. The revenue derived from grass and grazing represents 43 per cent of the total revenue. The total expenditure was Rs. 15,45,168, and the net profit rose from Rs. 4,04,835 to Rs. 5,16,402. Of the total expenditure, about a fifth was spent on establishments, the balance being almost wholly accounted for by conservancy and works.

MINES AND QUARRIES

5—MINES AND QUARRIES

[Report on the working of the Indian Mines Act in the Central Provinces for the calendar year 1909, and Part I of the Statistics of British India.]

Mines under the Indian Mines Act.

102. The number of coal mines worked during the year was seven, against eight in the previous year. There was a small, though appreciable, increase (from 213,489 tons to 238,099 tons) in the output of coal during the year, the value rising from Rs. 10,23,920 to Rs. 10,88,985. The largest increase has occurred at the Government Mine at Ballarpur, where the output has risen from 45,000 to 85,000 tons, and the value of the coal extracted from Rs. 2,10,000 to Rs. 3,84,2[illegible]3. The Colliery is now in thorough working order and constitutes a very fine property; its output is greater than that of any other mine in the Province. The coal mines gave employment to 2,911 persons.

Manganese mining.

103. The number of manganese quarries coming within the meaning of Section 3 (*d*) of the Act fell from 27 to 21 in the year under report. The total quantity of manganese ore extracted was 279,718 tons, as against an outturn of 360,395 tons in the previous year. For the whole Province the average price of manganese ore, on the figures returned, works out to only Rs. 4-4-11 per ton of the mineral at the mine. There is scope in the Central Provinces for a very large development of manganese mining; but it is to be feared that no general quickening of activity will take place until prices improve. Serious inconvenience has also been caused to the manganese industry by the shortage of the waggon supply on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, where at frequent intervals there has been a total cessation of traffic for days together for want of waggons. A simple solution of the difficulty would be to allow the Bengal-Nagpur Railway as a special case to carry manganese from Nagpur to Calcutta at the same charge as that for which it is carried from Nagpur to Bombay by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway; the Railway Board have been addressed on the point.

104. In the Jubbulpore District two new limestone mines were opened during the year, but five of the old mines remained closed. Three new mines were opened for pottery clay in the Jubbulpore District and one for wolframite, an interesting discovery, in the Nagpur District. The iron mine at Jaoli, the copper mines at Dharwara and Bhula, the bauxite mines at Tikari, and the soapstone quarry at Sagra, all situated in the Jubbulpore District, were not worked during the year. Fuller's earth continued to be extracted from the quarry at Tikaria in the Jubbulpore District. There was a decrease in the outturn of limestone, but on the other hand the quantity of pottery clay extracted exceeded the previous year's figures by 15,021 tons. The Carnegie Steel Company extracted 450 pounds of wolframite from their mine at Agargaon in the Nagpur District. The number of labourers employed in the limestone quarries and the mines for pottery clay, soapstone, wolframite, and fuller's earth was 2,352. No outbreak of any epidemic occurred at any of the mines, and the health of the labourers is reported to have been good. The sanitary arrangements at all the mines were distinctly satisfactory. The number of serious accidents increased from 26 to 35 during the year, but on the other hand the number of lives lost decreased from 12 to 6. The accidents were mostly of an unpreventable nature; and none are reported to have been due to negligence or want of precaution on the part of the mine-owners. There were no prosecutions under the Act. Prospecting licenses to the number of 245, and 37 mining leases, were granted during the year under report, as against 346 and 25 in the previous year. **Miscellaneous. Commercial activity.**

6—MANUFACTURES.

MANUFACTURES

[Report on the working of the Factories Act in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1909, and Part I of Statistics of British India.]

105. Although only four new factories were brought on the register during the year the number actually working rose from 323 in the preceding year to 340. The increase was entirely confined to Berar, and is accounted for by the excellence of the cotton crops of the year. The total number of operatives employed increased from 37,619 to 40,364 during the year. Their health has everywhere been good. The sanitary conditions of the factories were satisfactory and the defects brought to the notice of Managers were rectified with fair promptitude. In a Match Factory one case of necrosis of the upper jaw was detected and the employment of the man affected was discontinued. The number of accidents was 172, an increase of ten over the number reported last year; 62 occurred in the Gun Carriage Factory at Jubbulpore. The majority, as usual, were due to the carelessness of the operatives themselves. **Number of factories. Employees. Health. Accidents.**

106. In the Yeotmal and Buldana Districts of Berar and in Wardha the rate of wages of labourers rose owing to the heavy outturn of the cotton crop. In the Nagpur District there was an increase in the rates for skilled labour in the spinning and weaving mills. Variations in the rates of wages paid to both skilled and unskilled labourers in Jubbulpore are attributed to the employment of artisans of varying degrees of efficiency. Otherwise wages have remained practically unchanged. **Wages.**

107. There were 12 prosecutions in the year as against 28 in 1908, and convictions were secured in six cases against 21 in the previous year. The scarcity of adult labour, particularly in Berar, led to the employment of women and children in large numbers. In six cases convictions were obtained for infringement of the law. Four of these were for the illegal employment of children, an offence which is notoriously common, but is most difficult to detect because of the manner in which the parents and children combine with factory owners to hoodwink inspecting officers. But the district reports indicate that the factories were as a whole well managed. Attention was paid to the necessity for frequent inspections, but there is still further room for improvement in this respect. The total number of inspections was 1,352, of which 455 were made by Provincial Inspectors. The total number of factories left uninspected in the combined Provinces fell from 80 to 47. **Prosecutions. Supervision.**

TRADE

7—TRADE

[Report on the rail-borne traffic of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st March 1910; Part II of the Statistics of British India, and Volume of Prices and Wages in India.]

Character of the harvest. Prices. Total traffic.

108. The climatic conditions both in the Central Provinces and Berar were favourable. The rabi area in the combined Provinces increased by 24 per cent over the abnormally contracted sowings of 1907-08. The kharif area increased by 558,300 acres in the Central Provinces and by 61,000 acres in Berar, and the yield for both the Provinces was 96 per cent of a normal crop. All food-grains and raw produce became cheaper at the close of 1908, and the fall in price was most marked in the case of rice and gram. The improved yield of the harvest in 1909 tended to reduce prices still further. The Berar cotton crop during the year was an unusually large one, and owing to shortage of the American crop prices for cotton ruled extraordinarily high. The average prices per maund for the whole year, as compared with those of 1908-09, involved decreases as follows—wheat 16 per cent, rice 19, juar 13, gram 28, linseed 1, and til 15. The price of cotton alone has risen by 32 per cent. The total volume of trade rose by about 9 million maunds and the total value by $7\frac{1}{3}$ crores. The value of imports and exports respectively increased by about $5\frac{1}{2}$ and 68 millions.

Imports.

109. The bulk of the imports increased by 2,934,000 maunds or 16 per cent, and the value rose by $54\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs or 5 per cent. The principal increases are noticeable under the heads "Coal and Coke," "Cotton Manufactured," "Metals," "Salt," and "Sugar." The quantity of coal and coke imported rose by 22,054 maunds or 11 per cent, and the increase was most marked in the Jubbulpore, Nerbudda, Nimar, and Berar blocks, which continued to draw large supplies from Bengal. The Nagpur, Chhattisgarh, and Satpura blocks reduced their demand as the local collieries were better able to supply them. The increase in the quantity of manufactured cotton imported, which rose by 106,024 maunds or 31 per cent, is mainly due to the good harvest coupled with an extra-ordinarily high price for cotton, which strengthened the purchasing power of the people. The imports of metals and sugar increased by 119 and 11 per cent respectively. The quantity of salt imported was nearly double the quantity imported during the previous year, and is due partly to the numerous marriages that were celebrated on account of the year being considered a propitious one. The imports under wood, oil (chiefly kerosine), oilseeds, dyes and tans, and tea also increased. Of the last named the imports of foreign tea show a falling-off, but that of Indian tea is steadily advancing. The imports under the heads "Fodder," "Grain and Pulse," "Spices", and "Tobacco" decreased by 41, 35, 5 and 25 per cent respectively. The decrease under "Tobacco" mainly occurs under "Unmanufactured Tobacco," imports of which fell by 52,000 maunds. The imports of railway plant and rolling-stock decreased by 5,700 maunds, as there were no additions to the open mileage on provincial railways.

Exports.

110. Exports rose by 24 per cent in weight and 54 per cent in value; the extensive trade in raw cotton, grain and pulse, lac, metals, mineral substances, and oilseeds mainly account for the rise. Exports fell in the cases of "Coal and Coke," "Fodder," "Hides and Skins," "Hemp and other fibres," "Railway Plant and Rolling Stock," "Salt," and "Wood." Three and a half months of well-distributed rain, followed by sunny weather, caused an unusual improvement in the export of raw cotton, which rose by 1,543,000 maunds or 51 per cent. Under "Grain and Pulse" the exports rose from 3,012,000 to 4,422,000 maunds, or by 47 per cent. The increase is most conspicuous in the case of wheat, which alone contributed half of the total quantity exported. Exports under the head "Metals" rose by 5 per cent, manganese constituting the principal item, as 347,000 tons were exported during 1909-10. The quantity of oilseeds exported increased by 91 per cent. Exports of linseed and til nearly doubled and exports under the head "Others," which consisted mostly of cotton seed, rose by 77 per cent. Exports of coal and coke fell by 32 per cent, as the collieries were busy in supplying local needs. There was a fall of 59,000 maunds or 19 per cent under the head "Fodder." Under this head the exports of oil-cake rose by 17,600 maunds, but those of hay, straw, and grass decreased by 76,700 maunds. The exports of hides and skins and of hemp and other fibres fell by 28 and 10

per cent respectively. Under "Railway Plant and Rolling Stock" a large decrease of 52 per cent occurred. The exports under "Wood" fell by 184,000 maunds or 20 per cent, owing to the decrease in the supply of manufactured wood to Rajputana and Central India from the Nerbudda and Nimar blocks.

8—PUBLIC WORKS

PUBLIC WORKS

[Finance Accounts of the Buildings and Roads Branch of the Public Works Department, Central Provinces, for the year 1909-10, and Parts III and IV (*b*) of the Statistics of British India.]

IMPERIAL CIVIL WORKS

Imperial civil works.

111. The site and building occupied by the office of the Postmaster-General, Central Circle, were acquired at a cost of Rs. 32,000 for a new Post Office and Postmaster's quarters. The quarters for the Senior Superintendent of the Office of the Comptroller and the remodelling of the Government Telegraph Office at Kamptee were completed at a cost of Rs. 8,485 and Rs. 5,187 respectively; and a Sub-Post Office at Janjgir, estimated to cost Rs. 1,973, was taken in hand.

PROVINCIAL WORKS

Provincial works.

112. The total expenditure on Provincial works of all kinds amounted to Rs. 58,35,660, of which Rs. 27,56,797 were spent on original works, the balance being absorbed by recurrent charges, *viz.*, repairs to existing roads and buildings, Establishment, and Tools and Plant.

Forest buildings.

113. The following were the principal works carried out during the year :—

The office for the Divisional Forest Officer at Nagpur was completed at a total cost of Rs. 16,614, and a sum of Rs. 6,969 was spent on completing the office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Nagpur and Wardha Divisions. The construction of quarters for the Divisional Forest Officer at Akola was taken in hand and an expenditure of Rs. 9,988 was incurred thereon. A bungalow for the Divisional Forest Officer at Balaghat was enlarged at a cost of Rs. 3,280.

Administration. Land revenue buildings.

114. The construction of an office for the Commissioner of Settlements at Nagpur was in progress during the year, a further expenditure of Rs. 72,159 being incurred ; the building is now nearing completion. The construction of new tahsil buildings at Saoner and Brahmapuri was practically completed, the total expenditure at the end of the year being Rs. 34,337 and Rs. 35,887 respectively. Work on the new tahsil buildings at Balapur, Sausar, and Bhainsdehi was taken in hand, and an expenditure of Rs. 28,608 in all was incurred thereon. A portable Settlement Office at Wardha was begun and completed during the year at a total cost of Rs. 26,184. Work was done on the tahsilis at Amraoti, Chandur Railway, Saugor, Rehli, Janjgir, Baloda Bazar, Bemetara, and Balode at a total cost somewhat exceeding Rs. 20,000.

Excise buildings.

115. Certain additions and alterations to the sadar distillery at Seoni (Chappara) were executed by the Excise Department at a total cost of Rs. 22,045. Bonded Warehouses at Akot, Khamgaon, Garchiroli, and Dharni were completed, and those at Sakoli and Morsi were nearly finished. Quarters for the two Excise Sub-Inspectors at Garchiroli were nearly completed at an expenditure of Rs. 2,784, and others at Baihar were finished.

Residences for Local Governments and Secretariat Offices.

116. Good progress was made on the new Secretariat building, which is very near completion. The total expenditure up to the end of the year has been Rs. 8,22,112 against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 8,75,732, the expenditure during the year being Rs. 1,76,779. The construction of a Ball-room at the Residency at Pachmarhi was begun during the year and well advanced, the expenditure incurred being Rs. 14,031 against an estimate of Rs. 17,673. An office for the Chief Commissioner's Camp Clerk was constructed at Government House, Nagpur, at a cost of Rs. 5,090.

Miscellaneous.

117. At Pachmarhi two bungalows were bought and adapted, the expenditure in each case being between Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 24,000. They will be technically circuit-houses, but in each case the Officer holding a particular post will have a prior claim to rent the house for the season, and rent is fixed at a

figure which will give a good return on the capital cost of buildings and furniture. House accommodation is so scanty that official residences are needed, but the classification of these houses as circuit-houses introduces valuable elasticity into the arrangement. At Nagpur the Judicial Commissioner's bungalow was completed at a total cost of Rs. 42,200 and another large bungalow was partly constructed at a cost of Rs. 20,347. The Deputy Commissioner's bungalow at Buldana was completed at a total cost of Rs. 28,918, and that at Balaghat for Rs. 18,223. The circuit-house at Mandla was completed for Rs. 15,000, a bungalow for an Assistant Commissioner was bought at Buldana for Rs. 6,000, quarters for a Munsiff were provided at Janjgir for Rs. 5,000, and miscellaneous work at much less expense was done on various bungalows and circuit-houses.

Agriculture. 118. Farm buildings, quarters, and other requirements of the Experimental Farms and the Veterinary Department cost over Rs. 12,000.

Educational. 119. Additional oil gas plant was erected for the Victoria Technical Institute, Nagpur, at a cost of Rs. 13,300, and a sum of Rs. 19,585 was spent in collecting materials for the construction of a new Agricultural Laboratory. Additions to the Hindi and Marathi Branch School at Kamptee were made at a cost of Rs. 8,908. An outlay of Rs. 3,106 was incurred on the floating foundations of the New Normal School at Nagpur. The construction of the additional Boarding House to the High School at Amraoti was practically completed, the expenditure during the year being Rs. 2,819; the total to the end of March 1910 is Rs. 26,063. Work on the extension of the Government High School at Hoshangabad was started and Rs. 10,189 spent during the year against an estimate of Rs. 41,952. The new High School at Raipur was completed at a cost of Rs. 39,332, and a commencement was made with the construction of a new Anglo-Vernacular School at Drug. Materials were collected for other important projects, and a large variety of smaller works was done for the Department.

Law and Justice. High Courts and District Courts. 120. The Commissioner's office at Nagpur was completed and occupied during the year; the total cost was Rs. 50,288. The new civil court at Nagpur, with its record room, was completed and occupied during the year. The outlay was Rs. 1,36,107 on the former building and Rs. 49,061 on the latter. Additions to the district court at Bhandara were taken in hand and a sum of Rs. 4,931 spent. The construction of a new judicial court house at Bhandara was started and good progress made on it, the expenditure amounting to Rs. 16,803. Rs. 6,000 and Rs. 2,984, against estimated amounts of Rs. 23,379 and Rs. 17,732 respectively, were spent on improving the Deputy Commissioners' kacheri at Yeotmal and converting the circuit house at Yeotmal into civil courts. A sum of Rs. 2,768 was spent on certain additions and alterations to civil courts at Akola. Several minor improvements were also made at the district and subordinate courts at Akola, Buldana, Khamgaon, and Chanda. An expenditure of Rs. 10,000 was incurred on certain improvements to the district courts at Mandla, Damoh, and Hoshangabad, including the provision of additional record racks where required; and Rs. 6,000 were spent on petty additions and alterations to the court houses at Narsinghpur, Chhindwara, Betul, Drug, and Raipur. The construction of the new judicial court at Khandwa was taken in hand and a sum of Rs. 15,029 spent during the year against an estimate of Rs. 49,480.

Jails. 121. About Rs. 20,000 were spent on buildings for the Jail Department, the most expensive being quarters costing Rs. 5,599 at Jubbulpore.

Police. 122. The construction of offices for the District Superintendents of Police at Nagpur and Balaghat was taken in hand during the year and sums of Rs. 11,532 and Rs. 3,947 were spent on the two works respectively. The remodelling of the Executive Engineer's bungalow at Yeotmal and its conversion into quarters for the District Superintendent of Police was in progress, the expenditure during the year being Rs. 4,426 against an estimated amount of Rs. 5,053. The Leper Asylum buildings in Nagpur were converted into a Depôt for the Railway Police at a cost of Rs. 8,246. Station houses and quarters at Lanji were completed at an expenditure of Rs. 11,332. A police kotwali and quarters at

Akola were under construction, Rs. 18,272 being spent. The police reserve lines at Akola were practically completed, the expenditure during the year being Rs. 15,523; work was done on those at Yeotmal at an expenditure of Rs. 14,199 against an estimated amount of Rs. 86,018. Quarters for a police sergeant at Akola were commenced and completed during the year for Rs. 5,000. Rs. 4,824 were spent in finishing the bungalow of the Personal Assistant to the the Inspector-General of Police at Nagpur. Quarters for 20 married and 9 single constables at the Jubbulpore head-quarters police lines and for the European police sergeant at the Hoshangabad head-quarters police lines were constructed for Rs. 9,693 and Rs. 4,483 respectively. Certain police quarters at Dindori in the Mandla District, station houses at Shahpur, Dularia, and Rahatgaon in the Hoshangabad District, and a station house and quarters at Bhatapara in the Raipur District were begun, the total expenditure on these works being Rs. 16,000. Other works costing over Rs. 20,000 altogether were carried through for the Department. Certain petty works costing Rs. 2,000 were carried out in the police lines at Damoh.

Medical Hospitals, Dispensaries and Asylums.

123. The extensions to the Lunatic Asylum at Nagpur which were begun during 1908-09 were in progress and are nearing completion; the outlay to the end of the year was Rs. 54,556 against an estimate of Rs. 58,295. The construction of a second class branch dispensary at Dharni in the Amraoti District was in progress during the year with an expenditure of Rs. 3,002 against an estimate of Rs. 9,003. Several mortuaries were under construction or improvement, and sums of Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 1,000 were spent on a Civil Surgeon's office and his quarters.

Registration.

124. A few registration offices required slight attention.

Public Works Department buildings.

Expenditure under this head came to less than Rs. 10,000.

Communications.

125. Original construction during the year was practically confined to the completion of roads already in progress, chiefly those taken up during the last scarcity. The total outlay on communications amounted to Rs. 27,90,529, of which Rs. 14,37,048 were spent on original works and the balance on repairs. The widening of the remaining 47 miles of the metalled centre of the principal roads in the Nagpur District, which was left unfinished during 1908-09, was completed during the year, the cost of the whole length of 130 miles being Rs. 1,09,237. The raising of the Saoner-Multai road to Class I was completed, the outlay being Rs. 76,732. The construction of the Nagpur-Wari road, the Takli feeder road, and the Ambajheri-Anjani road, left unfinished during 1908-09, was completed during the year, the works costing Rs. 47,420, Rs. 16,055, and Rs. 14,898 respectively. An expenditure of Rs. 10,789 was incurred on the construction of, and improvements to, roads in the new civil station extension at Dharampeth in Nagpur. Work on the Baihar-Topla road was steadily pushed on and a sum of Rs. 60,646 was spent during the year, earthwork and the construction of culverts and causeways being almost completed. Good progress was also made on the construction of the Hatta-Piparjheri road, where a sum of Rs. 10,099 was spent. The work of constructing culverts and causeways on the Gondia-Arjuni and Kardha-Powni roads was pushed on, Rs. 13,257 and Rs. 7,703 being spenth An iron girder bridge with a 60 feet span in the 15th mile of the Lamtha-Baihar road was erected and flooring plates were put on. Very little now remains to be done on the work of raising this road in class.

The 1st and 2nd sections of the Chanda-Allapalli road were fully completed, the former section costing Rs. 92,600 and the latter Rs. 84,064. The 3rd and 4th sections of the road were under construction, expenditures of Rs. 22,350 and 41,306 respectively being incurred during the year. Rs. 10,389, Rs. 54,692, and Rs. 34,873 respectively were spent during the year on the Allapalli-Murumgaon, Allapalli-Sironcha, and Dhamtari Murumgaon roads, the total costs to date being Rs. 48,542, Rs. 1,25,629, and Rs. 85,309 respectively. The raising in class of the Wardha-Anji and the Wardha-Waigaon roads was continued, Rs. 9,190 and Rs. 5,235 being spent. The construction of roads from Darwha to Karanja, Darwha to Digras, Digras to Pusad, and Sambado to Dharni was still in progress,

the expenditure to the end of 1909-10 being Rs. 1,14,540, Rs. 69,376, Rs. 7,256, and Rs. 1,14,774, against estimated amounts of Rs. 1,22,055, Rs. 96,889, Rs. 89,968, and Rs. 1,18,426. Several roads in Berar were stone-metalled at a cost of Rs. 28,437, and Rs. 2,620 were spent on metalling the Mul-Murumgaon road from Mul to Garchiroli. Many improvements in the shape of constructing causeways and culverts on these roads were also made. The combined dâk and inspection bungalow at Gondia was constructed at a total cost of Rs. 11,210. The Abhana-Tendukhera-Taradehi and Burhanpur-Dhertalai-Dharni roads have now been quite completed. On the Badnur-Ellichpur road there is practically only one gap, that at the South Tapti ghat. The ghat improvements on the Piparia-Pachmarhi road, which have caused so much difficulty, were, after three years' labour and anxiety, brought to completion at a total cost of Rs. 1,39,605. The operations on the Rajnandgaon-Antagarh and Dhamda-Bemetara roads, which have extended over several years, were likewise finished. The raising to Class I of the North-West Road from Multai in the Betul District to the Nagpur border was also practically completed, thus opening through first class communication between Hoshangabad and Nagpur *viâ* Betul, Multai, and Saoner. The work on the Dindori-Amarkantak-Pendra Railway Station road, begun in the last scarcity period, was steadily pushed forward, and systematic effort is being made to bring this hitherto inaccessible tract within easy reach of the railway as quickly as practicable. A most difficult piece of work on the Amarkantak ghat near Kabirchabutra was considerably advanced, and operations are in progress between that ghat and the Pendra Railway Station from both directions. The 1st section of the Dhamtari-Murumgaon road was completed and the 2nd section well advanced. The construction of the submerged bridge at Mandla proceeded very slowly, partly on account of the difficulty in procuring skilled labour and partly because of the abnormal rain in the hot weather. A new dâk bungalow was opened at the important junction of Nainpur on the Satpura Railway. Miscellaneous road-work, not requiring a detailed description, was also done.

Arboriculture.

126. A sum of Rs. 52,730 was spent during the year on roadside tree-planting and the maintenance of nurseries.

Miscellaneous Public Improvements. Water-supply.

127. No works of any importance were carried out from Provincial Funds under the head of Water-supply.

District Funds.

128. Several school-houses and chawadis were completed or altered, causeways were made, and Rs. 8,088 were spent on improving a cart track from Akola to Ridhora. The work of improving the Daryapur-Anjangaon road was completed at an expenditure of Rs. 54,162 against an estimated amount of Rs. 51,009, the expenditure during the year being Rs. 1,353. The work of raising in class the Wardha-Deoli road was continued with an expenditure of Rs. 3,598, the total expenditure to the end of the year being Rs. 16,203. The construction of the Khimlasa-Malthone road, which was taken up during the previous year, was continued partly from Provincial and partly from Excluded Local Funds. The Ramnagar-Ghugri road, the Sehora to Salaya Railway Station road, and the Hoshangabad-Bandrabhan road were completed during the year at costs of Rs. 22,934, Rs. 11,918, and Rs. 18,820 respectively. Good progress was made on the raising of the Gadarwara-Sanikhera-Jhikoli road to class I, and also on the construction of the Badnur-Ranipur and Khandwa-Bhamgarh roads, the total outlay during the year on these works being Rs. 21,000.

Contributions.

129. Good work was done on the Gorewara Water-works, the outlay during the year being Rs. 1,46,645. The provisional estimate is 10 lakhs; the total outlay so far has been Rs. 1,61,082. The construction of the Craddock High School at Wardha was begun, but again stopped on account of alterations in the design; the expenditure incurred was Rs. 9,100. The construction of a dispensary building with staff quarters at Karanja, estimated at Rs. 10,482, was in progress during the year with an expenditure of Rs. 2,123. The construction of quarters for a Sub-Assistant Surgeon and a compounder at Balapur, and two school-houses for 280 boys at Tajnapeth, which was taken in hand during 1908-09, was

completed during the year at total costs of Rs. 4,923 and Rs. 8,898 respectively. The construction of a dam across the Wana river at Hinganghat was commenced, but the expenditure incurred, amounting to Rs. 1,234, was chiefly on the collection of materials. The work has been postponed until next season, as the sanctioned design, estimated to cost Rs. 18,160, is to be altered. Satisfactory progress was made in the building of the three Government wards in the Leper Asylum at Chandkhuri and in that of the Primary school at Gadarwara, Rs. 10,864 and Rs. 5,703 being expended. A commencement was made with the construction of the Raja Gokul Dass memorial dharmshala at Jubbulpore, which is estimated to cost Rs. 24,678. The extension of the Jubbulpore Waterworks was brought to completion at a total expenditure of Rs. 3,14,991 against the sanctioned estimate of Rs 3,23,258. Lesser works were also done.

130. The total expenditure during the year on surveys of roads in connection with the famine programme amounted to Rs. 56,015; some of these surveys were completed and some are still in progress, but all will be finished during 1910-11. **Imperial. 35. Protective Irrigation Works.**

131. The demarcation of the Khandwa-Akola-Basim railway resulted in a profit of Rs. 18, due to the sale of grass and fruits on the line. **Imperial. 41. Miscellaneous Railway Expenditure.**

132. Seven steam road rollers and 10 iron road rollers were purchased for road consolidation at a total cost of Rs. 53,739. **Tools and Plant.**

9—IRRIGATION

IRRIGATION

[Brief Note on Irrigation work done in the Central Provinces during the year 1909-10 for the Irrigation portion of the Public Works Department Annual Administration Report.]

133. The monsoon rainfall of the year was distinctly below the average; though heavy in the early part of the season it was in considerable defect in September. The total area irrigated was 37,635 acres, a little more than had ever before been covered. Except in years of really excessive, and also well-distributed, rainfall, there is now every prospect of a continuous rise in the area irrigated each year. Even in normal years water is generally required at some period or other during the monsoon, and the cultivators are beginning to appreciate the fact that the benefits to be derived even from one or two waterings during breaks in the rains are fully worth the water-rates charged. **Area under Irrigation.**

134. The investigation of the Protective works which find a place in the programme approved by the Government of India, some eight in number, was continued. All the projects on that programme should be ready for submission within the current year, and a start is being made on the construction of the Tendula Canal project. Of the 18 Protective works under construction last year, the completion reports of nine were submitted; two of the rest, Wara and Rumal, were very nearly completed, and all except Asola-Mendha and Barera Kalan were sufficiently far advanced to allow of some irrigation being done; Asola-Mendha would have been equally advanced but for a breach in the bund caused by very heavy rain in July. Some 56 Minor tanks or extensions were also in progress; several were completed and several more practically finished. **Major and Minor Works.**

135. The expenditure on Protective Irrigation works was Rs. 16,43,522, against a grant of Rs. 16,95,000; and on Minor works Rs. 4,89,886 were spent, against a grant of Rs. 5,00,000, though more could have been spent had funds been available. In addition to these sums, Rs. 23,106 were spent on Major works – Working expenses, and Rs. 11 332 on Contribution works. The total expenditure was Rs. 21,67,486, almost the same as that of 1908-09. **Expenditure**

36. The water-rates on the Chhattisgarh tanks are being gradually raised. In the year under review they were increased from Re. 0-12-0 to Rs. 1-4-0 for agreement villages, the rate for non-agreement villages remaining Rs. 2 as before. The increase did not lead to much diminution in the number of villages taking water on agreement; though a further increase in the current year has resulted in fewer agreements there are no signs that the cultivators shrink from paying full rates when they have any need of water. Owing to the revenue collected not having been credited in all cases to the proper head simple figures **Revenue.**

to express the results are not available; but instructions have been issued which will prevent erroneous credits in future. The greater part of the revenue from Protective Irrigation works is still derived from the Chhattisgarh tanks, but Khairbanda and Chandpur in the Bhandara District are beginning to bring an increasing return will soon more than pay their working expenses. Hitherto no credits on account of indirect revenue have been included in the earnings of these works, but in future something will be credited on this account. Jamabandis were for the most part submitted with creditable punctuality and the collection of the revenue is fairly up to date.

General.

137. The Agricultural Department has continued to co-operate in a most satisfactory way with the Irrigation Branch, and is of great assistance in experimenting on, and demonstrating, the results of irrigation, as far as its limited staff will permit; though with the new works now opening out in Jubbulpore, Damoh and Chanda, and especially at Ramtek the demand for demonstrations is increasing altogether beyond the capacity of the staff. The progress achieved since the Irrigation Commission issued their report has been most satisfactory and encouraging. In areas regarded as unpromising the people have already begun to pay for water at rates then regarded as mere possibilities of a dim and distant future. Malguzars who in their evidence before the Commission stated that 8 annas an acre would be the heaviest rate that could possibly be charged have already publicly expressed their acquiescence in the fairness of rates of Rs. 3 an acre for rice and Rs. 2 for wheat.

CHAPTER V

REVENUE AND FINANCE

[Further details and statistics will be found in Part IV (*b*) of the Statistics of British India.]

GROSS REVENUE.

138. The following statement compares the receipts, expenditure, and closing balances under the various heads for the years 1908-09 and 1909-10 :— **Gross Revenue.**

Heads.	Receipts.		Expenditure.		Closing balance.	
	1908-09.	1909-10.	1908-09.	1909-10.	1908-09.	1909-10.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imperial Revenues (*a*) ..	98,33,874	1,04,54,015	69,29,762	58,10,097	...	...
Provincial Revenues ...	2,18,33,361 (*b*)	2,47,04,312	2,49 18,568	2,39,86,474	17,09,903	24,87,741
Deposits of Local Funds—						
District Funds ..	39 66,817	24,71,213	31,65,505	23,97,845	8,01 312	8,74,680
Jagiia and Local Cess Funds	7,98,750	5,24,891	4,85,904	5,43,163	3,12,846	2 94,574
Other Funds ...	8,78,225	7,97,421	8,02,474	7,91,382	3,61,206	3,67,245
Municipal Revenues ...	18,88,562	21,29,172	19,42,857	20,01,985	5 95,779	7,23,166
Total	3,91,99,619	4 10,81,024	3 83,05.070	3 55,30,946	38,41,246	47,47,406

(*a*) The Imperial Receipts and Expenditure under Protective Public Works are included in these figures.
(*b*) Includes Rs. 12,658 on account of balance of Local Funds merged into General Revenues.

(*a*) REVENUE AND FINANCE—IMPERIAL.

139. The Imperial Revenue for 1909-10 was more than that of 1908-09 by Rs. 6,20,141 and the Imperial Expenditure less by Rs. 11,19,665. The heads under which striking differences occur are given in the following table :— **Imperial Revenue.**

Revenue and Receipts.	Actuals.		Expenditure.	Actuals.	
	1908-09.	1909-10.		1908-09.	1909-10
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Land Revenue. { Proper ...	83,15,446	93,87,656	Forest ...	8,76,654	7,93 398
Land Revenue. { Adjustment ...	—56,04,668	—62,89,213	Famine ..	11,09,255	25,183
Stamps ...	14,96,239	15,99,689	Protective Irrigation Works in charge of Public Works Officers.	16,03,434	16,66,628
Excise ..	33,07,923	34,43,739			
Customs ...	1,98,419	2,17,217	Other heads (including Civil Works in charge of Public Works Officers).	33,40,419	33,24 888
Assessed Taxes ..	2,88,333	2,73,602			
Tributes ...	2,47,623	2,38,587			
Other heads (including Imperial Public Works and Minor Works).	15,84,559	15,82,738			
Total ...	98,33,874	1,04,54,015	Total ..	69,29,762	58 10,097

REVENUE.

140. LAND REVENUE.—*Imperial share one-half.*—There were larger collections of Land Revenue in 1908-09 than in the previous year, but, even so, considerable sums were left in arrears on account of scarcity. In the year under report a large part of those arrears, as well as the full amount normally demanded, were collected, causing a further increase on the totals of the previous year.

Under "Adjustment" there were elements of both decrease and increase. As to decrease in 1908-09 Rs. 74,168 were received on account of a bonus given to certain classes of Government servants in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the assumption of the Government of India by the Crown, but in the present year nothing was received under that head; on the contrary there was a trifling refund, Rs. 287, because that adjustment had been in excess. However, two large assignments caused a considerable net increase of "Adjustment". The prescribed minimum Provincial balance is Rs. 10,00,000; but it was estimated that at the end of 1910-11 the balance would fall short of this

amount by Rs. 7,09,000, and an assignment to that extent was consequently made from Imperial funds. A further Rs. 50,000 were assigned for special Police Reforms.

141. STAMPS.—The increase occurs under Court-fee and Commercial and other Stamps. There had been an increase in 1908-09 in spite of a season of poor crops. The harvest of the year under report was good, and a further increase appeared.

142. EXCISE.—The figures of last year were less than those of the year before; in 1909-10 there was a partial recovery.

143. CUSTOMS.—The increase was due to the continued prosperity of the mills in the cotton-growing part of the Province.

144. ASSESSED TAXES.—The fall, which was not very considerable, was largely due to a decrease in the profits of manganese companies.

145. TRIBUTES.—The decrease this year, like the increase last year, is purely nominal, both being caused by a slight irregularity in the date of payment of certain tributes.

EXPENDITURE.

146. FOREST.—Last year considerable expenditure was incurred in the provision of employment to relieve distress and in the payment of grain compensation; in the year under report there was no occasion for such expenditure. The fact that lac and harra were collected through contractors instead of departmentally also caused a fall; the total expenditure was considerably less than that of 1908-09 but very slightly more than that of 1907-08.

147. FAMINE.—The conclusion of the period of scarcity naturally caused expenditure under this head almost to disappear.

148. PROTECTIVE IRRIGATION AND MAJOR WORKS.—The cost of the Irrigation Establishment has increased, while the works outlay under these two heads was somewhat less than in the previous year, so that the percentage recoveries on account of establishment charges also fell.

(*b*) REVENUE AND FINANCE—PROVINCIAL.

Provincial Revenue.

149. The following statement compares the actuals of the two years 1908-09 and 1909-10. The details of the major heads under which striking differences have occurred are given separately :—

Revenue and Receipts.	Actuals. 1908-09.	Actuals. 1909-10.	Expenditure.	Actuals. 1908-09.	Actuals. 1909-10.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Opening balance ...	48,55,110	17,69,903	Refunds and Drawbacks' ...	50,866	65,262
Land Revenue—Proper ...	83,15,445	93,87,657	Land Revenue ...	37,39,514	38,16,445
Land Revenue—Adjustments ..	+56,04,668	+62,89,213	Forest ...	8,76,654	7,93,399
Stamps ...	14,96,240	15,99,689	Interest on Ordinary Debt ...	1,40,072	1,60,133
Excise ...	33,07,923	34,43,739	General Administration ...	8,18,364	8,42,364
Assessed Taxes ...	2,88,333	2,73,602	Law and Justice—Courts of Law.	25,10,402	24,75,858
Registration ...	2,78,272	2,96,750	Law and Justice—Jails ...	5,86,090	6,14,104
Interest ...	1,53,823	2,54,085	Police ...	32,28,761	31,05,038
Law and Justice—Courts of Law.	1,98,857	2,21,084	Education ...	15,89,039	16,55,200
Law and Justice—Jails ...	2,16,060	2,55,980	Medical ...	7,18,278	7,98,259
Education ...	95,541	1,09,308	Scientific and other Minor Departments.	4,80,140	4,31,965
Scientific, &c. ...	72,746	94,288	Stationery and Printing ..	4,57,595	3,27,459
Miscellaneous ...	1 53,878	6,83,594	Miscellaneous ..	1,42,849	1 06,647
Civil Works—in charge Public Works Officers.	4,26,772	5,94,170	Civil Works—Civil ..	1,60,389	1,91,772
Other heads ...	12,12,145	12,01,153	Do. —P. W. D. ...	66,00,925	58,35,660
	2,18,20,703		Minor Works, &c, P. W. D. ..	5,57,337	4,89,886
Balance of Local Funds merged into General Revenues.	12,658		Other heads ..	22,61,203	22,77,023
Total ...	2,18,33,361	2,47,04,312	Total ...	2,49,18,568	2,39,86,474
			Closing balance ..	17,69,903	24,87,741
GRAND TOTAL ...	2,66,88,471	2,64,74,215	GRAND TOTAL ..	2,66,88,471	2,64,74,215

REVENUE

Registration.—The increase is probably due to the general development of the Province.

Interest.—In 1908-09 very much larger advances than usual were made to cultivators on account of the scarcity. This had a very marked influence on the amount of interest received in that year, but the full effect only became apparent in the year under report.

Law and Justice—Courts of Law.—There were increases in recoveries on account of pauper suits, in process-servers' and copying fees, in magisterial fines, and in other items. The general development of the Province probably explains the increase.

Education.—The receipts under this head have been increasing for some years with the growth in the activities of the Education Department.

Scientific and other Minor Departments.—The increase was most marked in the case of the Agricultural Department, which both pressed its operations with vigour and profited by a favourable season. Fees for the Inspection and Examination of Boilers increased as the improved cotton crop provided more work for the factories.

Miscellaneous.—The increase was caused by large sales of the cloth made in the relief measures of the previous year.

Civil Works in charge of Public Works Officers.—The chief cause of the increase was a larger sale of coal from the Ballarpur Colliery, but the provision of additional house accommodation for Government officers and the consequent realization of increased rents contributed to it.

EXPENDITURE.

Refunds and Drawbacks.—The increase was largely due to refunds made to liquor contractors, who have found the last two years considerably less profitable than they expected.

Land Revenue and Forest.—The variations have been explained in Section "(*a*) Revenue and Finance—Imperial".

Interest on Ordinary Debt.—The outstanding balances of the Provincial Advance and Loan Account were high at both the beginning and the end of the year because of the large advances made to cultivators during the scarcity of 1907-08, not yet repaid; the interest, calculated at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on the mean between these balances, consequently formed a large sum.

General Administration.—A certain increase due to the appointment of a Financial Commissioner was pointed out last year, but some of the expenditure involved was sanctioned too late to take full effect in that year.

Law and Justice—Courts of Law.—There was a decline to more normal expenditure from the totals of 1908-09, though, as was explained then, a return to the figures of still earlier years cannot be expected.

Law and Justice—Jails.—Articles required by the Military Supply and Transport Department could not be obtained from private contractors and had to be got from the Jail Department, which consequently had to spend more than usual on raw materials.

Police.—The decrease was caused partly by the discontinuance of grain compensation allowance. A larger sum, also, was recovered from the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company than in 1908-09.

Education.—Grants were made more liberally to various institutions, and the (incremental) pay of Inspectors was greater than in the previous year.

Medical.—The increased expenditure was due to large grants to local bodies for sanitary purposes, to the outbreak of a serious epidemic of plague, and to the appointment, near the end of the year, of a Sanitary Commissioner.

Scientific and other Minor Departments.—In 1908-09 a grant of Rs. 50,000 was made to the Nagpur Exhibition, but no such grant had to be made in 1909-10. The expenditure therefore decreased, though it was still, owing to the increased scope given to the Minor Departments, considerably higher than in 1907-08.

Stationery and Printing.—More stringent rules were enforced about the supply of stationery from the Central Stores, and caused a considereble reduction of expenditure.

Miscellaneous.—A decrease was caused by the cessation of the system of grants (amounting in 1908-09 to Rs. 29,550) to District Funds in Berar, and by a reduction in the rates of rewards for the destruction of wild animals.

Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers.—The expenditure has risen from the lower total of 1908-09 to the higher amount of the preceding year.

Civil Works in charge of Public Works Officer and *Minor Works and Navigation.*—The large decrease under these heads was caused by the cessation of relief works and the limitation of other works from motives of economy.

CHAPTER VI

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES

1—DETAILS OF CENSUS.

DETAILS OF CENSUS

150. An account of this subject will be found on pages 31 and 32 of the Report on the Administration of the Central Provinces for 1901-02 and on pages 22 and 25 of the Report on the Administration of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts for the same year.

2—BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1909, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

System of registration.

151. The only change in the system of registration of vital statistics during the year was that the Central Provinces method of reporting to the Police as well as to the Municipal authorities was introduced into Berar. In rural tracts the registration of births and deaths is fairly accurate as to totals, but the classification by diseases is quite unreliable and misleading. Instructions for the differentiation of important diseases were issued in 1908, but except in Narsinghpur, where the Civil Surgeon is preparing a vernacular pamphlet on the subject, and in Bilaspur, where a glossary has been made and given to the District Superintendent of Police for distribution, there is not much evidence of efforts in this direction. Police Muharrirs at times try and improve upon the Kotwar's information, but little can be expected from the mere interpretation of mistaken reports Some Civil Surgeons are scarcely able to go on tour at all and some cannot visit the more remote registration circles. The Sanitary Commissioner therefore, proposes to draw up simple instructions in vernacular for the guidance of Registering Officers.

Births.

152. The total number of births registered during the year was 617,987. The birth-rate, though not so high as in any of the preceding five years, was still the highest in India, the ratio being 51·63 per mille on the census population of 1901. The year 1908 was a year of scarcity and high prices, culminating in famine in the Northern districts; those districts also suffered somewhat from the malarial visitation which was so severe over Northern India in the autumn of 1908. The falling-off in the birth-rate of 1909 there is considerable, but over the rest of the Province the birth-rate either rose or was well maintained; and even in the Northern districts it recovered during the latter months of the year.

Deaths.

153. The excess of births over deaths was 18·54 per mille. The percentage of male births exceeded that of female by 4·77, and the rural birth-rate was as usual much higher than the urban, the difference being 13·56 per mille. The total number of deaths registered during the year was 396,135, and the general death-rate was 33·09 per mille, which is satisfactorily small compared with that of the past few years. It is high as compared with that of other Provinces, being the third in order in all India, but the rate is not remarkable when considered in conjunction with the high birth-rates of the last 6 years. However, the census figures are now becoming obsolete, and the basis of calculation is therefore so inaccurate that birth-rates and death-rates alike probably need considerable correction. There is a curious tendency for the excess of male deaths over female deaths to increase, and this excess is now much larger than the excess of male births over female births. This may possibly be due to the large number of men from Upper India who come into the Province for labour but leave their wives and families at home. The Sanitary Commissioner is enquiring into the matter.

Chief diseases.

154. Both cholera and small-pox were present during the year, but show a satisfactory decrease on the year preceding; the mortality due to them was also substantially below the mean of the previous five years. The decreased mortality from small-pox is partly accounted for by the lower birth-rate, as nearly three-fourths of the mortality from this disease occurs among infants and young children; this, moreover, shows that in spite of efforts to popularise vaccination

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

a good many children remain unprotected. Plague was unhappily much more severe than in previous years, and the fluctuations of the disease do not warrant any sanguine hope that it is disappearing; however, they fully justify a belief that the people are learning more and more how to combat the disease. The epidemic in Nagpur was especially virulent, claiming over 7,000 victims. Mortality from diseases which are not epidemic is so badly diagnosed by village watchmen and the Police that figures shown under the various heads can only be regarded as reflecting general tendencies. A recurrent feature in the mortality returns of the Province is the high death-rate ascribed to bowel complaints in Berar districts and the neighbouring district of Wardha in the Central Provinces; it is possible that the consumption of juar, not properly kept, helps to cause these complaints.

Special measures.

155. The measures adopted to check cholera in infected districts were disinfection of the sources of water-supply by permanganate of potash and distribution of cholera medicines through the Vaccination staff and the Police. There can be no doubt that the treatment of wells with permanganate of potash has proved the most effective means for controlling the disease in all places where well water is drunk; but in villages which depend for their drinking water on pools in nalas or on village tanks the same amount of success is unattainable. The extended use of good wells has been continually encouraged, but there are still a very large number of villages which either have no wells or in which the wells dry up in the hot season. Plague preventive measures—inoculation, evacuation, and rat-destruction—continued. Anti-plague inoculations numbered 46,270 against 19,323 in the previous year; but educated Indians are still regrettably slow to appreciate its value. The Sanitary Commissioner is extremely sceptical about the good to be obtained from rat-killing campaigns; but he has been directed to confer with the Parel authorities on the subject before the policy of rat-destruction is definitely abandoned. The arrangements hitherto in force for the distribution of quinine among the people have been inadequate, and as a result of the Malaria Conference at Simla a revised scheme for largely increasing and popularising the use of quinine was sanctioned in March last, but it was not in full working in time for the autumn of 1910. The essence of the scheme is to supplement *ex-officio* vendors by making the sale of quinine a source of profit to ordinary village banias, who at present do most of the business in country drugs, the inducement offered being a profit of 33 per cent on sales.

3—EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

[Report on the Inland Emigration of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th June 1910, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

Emigration.

156. The chief feature of the year has been a continued increase in every form of recruiting agency, coupled with a fall of 30 per cent in the total number of emigrants sent up to the gardens. The return to normal conditions in those portions of the Provinces where during 1908-09 the after-effects of the preceding bad season were still being felt accounts largely for the decrease in emigration. Other factors were, however, at work; the increase in the local demand for labour owing to increased activity in the construction of railways and irrigation works, together with the continued spread of the manganese industry, had a considerable share in diverting the stream of labour. On the other hand, the fine profits made by all agents during the past two years account partly for the increase in their number; while the increase in the area under tea and the development of wider markets for the produce of the gardens has kept up the demand for labour. As in the previous year, the coolies recruited in the Jubbulpore District contributed more than half the total number of emigrants from the whole Province. Throughout the Province the sardari system of recruiting in its various forms is superseding the contract system, and the proportionate decrease in emigration this year was appreciably greater in the case of contract coolies than in that of sardari coolies. The total number of labourers recruited was 4,674, of whom 2,816 were males and 1,858 females.

Health of emigrants.

157. The depôts and rest-houses maintained by contractors and local agents for the accommodation of coolies in transit were, in general, regularly inspected. The general health of the coolies was good, and no epidemic disease broke out among them during the year.

158. There was only one prosecution under the Act, instituted against a garden-sardar who had absconded with an advance of money from his employer. The case was not pressed and was eventually dismissed under Section 247 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. In the case under Section 170 (*b*) and (*c*) against the sardarin in Mandla, which was pending at the end of the last year, the accused was arrested but afterwards released, and the local agent was directed to send for her if he desired her presence, paying the necessary expenses himself. In Bilaspur the licenses of one contractor, one sub-contractor, and three recruiters were cancelled. The contractor was found to be a man who had been in bad repute as a recruiter at Jharsugra; while the sub-contractor and recruiters were found to have been dealing with recruiters from the Feudatory State of Raigarh who had not been licensed under the rules in force in that State. **Working of Act VI of 1901.**

159. The receipts from fees amounted to a total of Rs. 3,410. The expenditure, which consisted entirely of the pay and allowances of Registration Clerks and of fees paid to Civil Surgeons for the medical examination of coolies, amounted to Rs. 835-1-5. **Financial.**

160. Emigration to the Colonies was confined, as before, to the Jubbulpore trict, where the single head recruiter sent away 55 labourers. The licenses of a head recruiter and three recruiters to collect labour for British Guiana and Natal were countersigned in June in Hoshangabad, but no recruiting was done. **Emigration to the Colonies under Act XXI of 1883.**

4—MEDICAL RELIEF

MEDICAL RELIEF

[Annual Notes on Hospitals and Dispensaries in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1909, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

161. The year opened with 269 dispensaries on the list; eight new ones were opened and the same number closed. Of the number at the close of the year, 31 were maintained by the State and 152 by Local Funds; the rest were either private or State-aided institutions. **Number of dispensaries.**

162. The total number of patients treated at the various Government dispensaries was 1,779,060 (13,776 indoor and 1,765,284 outdoor), or 47,778 more than in the previous year, the increase being shared by both sexes. A satisfactory number of Hindu and Muhammadan women came for treatment. **Number of patients.**

163. The number of private dispensaries rose from 50 to 52; good work was, as before, done in them. Missionary bodies maintained 21, private individuals 9, and Feudatory States 22. The total number of patients treated in these dispensaries was 342,921, or 14,769 more than in 1908. **Private dispensaries.**

164. Relief was chiefly sought for diseases of the eye, the respiratory and digestive systems, and the skin and ear. During a severe epidemic of cholera in the districts of Berar, 443 cases were treated at dispensaries. In the Central Provinces cholera was prevalent in 15 districts, but cases were treated in only 12 of them. There was a decrease under the head "Malarial fevers" due to the presence of plague, as those suffering from fever are disinclined to attend the out-patients' department during an epidemic of plague. **Relative frequency of diseases.**

165. The number of surgical operations performed was 44,307, or 364 less than in the year preceding. Of these, 2,770 were of the more important kinds, including 1,040 operations for cataract. **Surgical operations.**

166. The total receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 7,06,344, or Rs. 11,735 more than in the year before, although there was a decrease of Rs. 38,555 under the head "Government Contributions" due to the fact that no contribution was made during the year towards the construction of buildings and other improvements. European subscriptions increased by Rs. 405 and Indian subscriptions by Rs. 11,244, an increase chiefly due to gifts for special objects on the part of a few generous donors. **Income.**

167. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 4,41,543, or Rs. 719 more than in the preceding year; at the end the cash balance was Rs. 2,64,801. **Expenditure.**

TREATMENT OF THE INSANE

5—TREATMENT OF THE INSANE

[Notes on the Annual Statements of the Lunatic Asylums in the Central Provinces for the year 1909, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

Numbers and health.

168. The total population of the Asylums at Nagpur and Jubbulpore put together was 396, or five more than in the preceding year. The number of criminal lunatics rose from 90 to 95. The admissions and discharges numbered 95 and 55 respectively. There was an appreciable increase in the number of labourers admitted into the Nagpur Asylum, but the Superintendent is unable to suggest any explanation. The daily average number of sick during the year was 4·58 as against 7·47 in 1908; deaths numbered 33.

Investigation of causes.

169. Considerable attention was paid to tracing the cause of insanity in lunatics sent to the Nagpur Asylum, where less than $\frac{1}{16}$th of the new admissions were returned as from "Unknown causes," while in Jubbulpore the proportion of "Unknown causes" was nearly $\frac{1}{4}$th of the total admissions. The reliability of the causes assigned is, however, doubtful.

Expenditure.

170. As compared with the previous year there was an increase of Rs. 14,699 in the total expenditure, due chiefly to the construction of additional buildings at Nagpur Asylum to accommodate lunatics from Jubbulpore Asylum. The average cost per head in Nagpur was Rs. 133, or Rs. 15 more than in the previous year, while in Jubbulpore it was Rs. 99 per head, or Rs. 14 less than that of 1908. The increase at Nagpur was chiefly due to the high prices of food-grains.

Industries and improvements

171. The chief occupation of the lunatics was farm, dairy, gardening, and weaving work. The dairy farm at Nagpur Asylum has continued to work satisfactorily; the attached farm has also proved profitable

The additional accommodation required to allow the Nagpur Asylum to receive the remaining lunatics at Jubbulpore had been practically completed by the end of the year, and it was anticipated that the transfer would be accomplished and the Jubbulpore Asylum finally closed by the end of February 1910.

SANITATION

6—SANITATION

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces aad Berar for the year 1909, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

Chief sanitary works.

172. In connection with the Nagpur water-supply the work of the Gorewara tank was in progress; the surveys, an approach road to the site of the works, excavation of the foundation of the Service Reservoir, and the construction of staff quarters and bungalows were completed during the year. Besides these, the construction of the storage tank, waste weir, valve tower, and tunnel outlet included in the project was undertaken. The total expenditure incurred up to the end of the year 1909 on these works was Rs. 94,000. The work on the construction of the Chikalda underground Service Reservoir was begun and an expenditure of Rs. 1,500 was incurred against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 7,026. Special repairs to main channels and construction of galleries in the open portion of the Chintaharan channel of the Burhanpur Water-works have been sanctioned and are in progress.

Municipal sanitation.

173. The better sanitation of towns is one of the most important matters now occupying the attention of the Administration. The annual grant of two lakhs from Imperial Funds for this purpose has been most carefully disbursed to avoid its being frittered away on small improvements which form no part of a comprehensive scheme; substantial sums have been allotted for town improvement schemes in Hoshangabad, Raipur, and Drug to relieve the congestion of the population, and in Seoni for improvements of the water-supply. The balance unallotted in previous years and the annual grants of each year will henceforward be fully utilised on approved schemes. The completion next year of the Gorewara reservoir will double the water-supply of Nagpur, and the sewerage scheme designed by Messrs. Lane-Brown and Hewett for the City and Civil Station will be taken in hand. Additional grants have been made for the preparation of a sewerage scheme by the same drainage experts for Jubbulpore, and for surface drainage in a number of smaller towns.

SANITATION

174. During the year the provisions of the Village Sanitation Act were extended to five villages. Meetings of the Sanitary Board were held at the head-quarters towns of 11 districts. Several petty works in connection with the improvement of water-supply, conservancy, roads, and the clearing of village sites were carried out under the direction of the Sanitary Board and paid for from funds raised under the Mukaddam Rules and from Town Funds, or were executed by private persons at their own cost. The reconstitution of the Sanitary Board is still under consideration. **Rural sanitation.**

The post of Sanitary Commissioner was created soon after the end of the year under report. Proposals for the appointment of a Sanitary Engineer have been submitted to the Government of India.

7—VACCINATION

VACCINATION

[Notes on vaccination in the Central Provinces for the season 1909-10, and Part V of the Statistics of British India.]

175. There has been a considerable fall, from 639,647 to 609,606, in the total number of operations performed during the year, the chief causes being the discontinuance of vaccination by Sub-Assistant Surgeons, the low birth-rate, and a wide-spread epidemic of plague. The facts that last year was a Singhast year, and that people were consequently busied with an unusual number of marriage ceremonies this year, also helped to reduce the numbers. The primary vaccinations in the Khalsa increased from 462,134 to 466,693, but the revaccinations fell by 9,996. **General record of vaccination.**

176. In Municipal towns there were in all 34,019 births during the year and 9,197 deaths among infants under one year of age. The infants under one year successfully vaccinated in them numbered 21,171 against 22,831 last year. The Vaccination Act was extended to three towns, *viz.*, Chanda, Warora, and Drug. **Vaccination in Municipalities.**

177. The deaths from small-pox numbered 3,556, or 0·29 per mille, against 0·69 in 1908-09 The death-rate was high only in Raipur and Bilaspur, and even there was lower than in the year previous. **Mortality from small-pox.**

Only glycerinated calf lymph was used during the year and the success obtained therefrom was 94·27 per cent. **Lymph.**

178. The expenditure on vaccination in British territory amounted to Rs. 61,185 against Rs. 65,995 in the past year. The decrease was under the heads "Establishment charges" and "Contingencies." The compensation allowance paid to the vaccination staff for dearness of food-grains increased the establishment charges in 1908-09, and the diminished number of vaccinations performed contributed towards the decrease in 1909-10. In the Feudatory States the total expenditure rose by Rs. 146. **Expenditure.**

CHAPTER VII

INSTRUCTION

1—GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

179. An account of this subject will be found at pages 118 to 124 of the Report on the Administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1901-02 and also at pages 80 to 83 of the Report on the Administration of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts for the same year.

2—EDUCATION

EDUCATION

[Report on the state and progress of Education in the Central Provinces for the year 1909-10 and Part VII of the Statistics of British India.]

Features of the year's work.

180. The cessation of seditious agitation and good harvests provided a more favourable environment than the Education Department has enjoyed for some time. Plague, though less wide spread than in several previous years, unfortunately interrupted the cold-weather session in several important centres, notably Nagpur and Jubbulpore, seriously affecting the results of examinations. The past year was one of unusual activity. The chief changes actually introduced were the revision of the curricula for Middle English and Primary Boys' Schools, the initiation of a school-leaving certificate examination, the opening of the Government Muhammadan High School at Amraoti, and the formulation of rules for grants-in-aid by local bodies to Boys' Primary Schools in Berar; but still more numerous and important measures were under discussion. Early in the year the Chief Commissioner submitted to the Government of India a comprehensive reference on the improvement of secondary education, and orders on some of the points involved have been received.

Number of schools and scholars.

181. The total number of educational institutions was 3,793, or 142 more than in the preceding year, and the number of scholars rose from 276,700 to 296,300. The percentage of boys under instruction to boys of school-going age has for some years increased with curious regularity by one unit annually.

Expenditure on education.

182. The total expenditure on education in British territory was 27¾ lakhs, while a little over another lakh was spent in Native States. The need of economy after the recent period of scarcity caused the expenditure in British districts to fall by a quarter of a lakh, but as there has been a large annual increase for some years past, this forms by no means a serious set-back. The average cost of educating each pupil fell from Rs. 7-12-1 to Rs. 7-2-10. Of the total expenditure over 39 per cent was met from Provincial and Imperial Revenues, and nearly 39 per cent from District Funds, while Municipal Funds, Fees, and Other Sources contributed just under 6, 7, and 10 per cent respectively. The Administration considers that 33 per cent of their income is in general a fair guide to the expenditure of District Councils and Boards on education. They have in fact paid more than this, although the percentage of total expenditure on education contributed by them was a little less than in the preceding year. The limits of provincial expenditure, in the existing financial position, have been nearly reached, and unless additional sources of income are tapped and fees increased, any substantial advance in education must be indefinitely postponed. In order to provide additional funds for primary education, proposals have been submitted to the Government of India to empower District Councils in the Central Provinces to increase their income for educational purposes, and in the department of secondary education a scheme is being elaborated to raise the extremely low fees without injuring the prospects of promising boys in poor circumstances.

183. The number of Arts Colleges was, as in the preceding year, four. The Victoria College of Science, Nagpur, was affiliated to the University of Allahabad up to the M. Sc. standard; it is one of two Colleges in the University affiliated beyond the B. Sc. stage. Collegiate education suffered very severely from the fact that plague epidemics occurred in the towns where Colleges are located. The results of all examinations, except those in law, were, probably for this reason, very poor. The number of students rose from 457 to 479. A Provincial Advisory Committee was established to assist students proceeding to England: the Committee work in correspondence with the similar body in London, and it is hoped that, besides providing much useful information, it will save young men from falling into political or other pitfalls on their arrival in England. **University education.**

184. The number of institutions imparting secondary education rose from 442 to 448, and that of their pupils from 52,268 to 55,309. The results of the Matriculation Examination were again very poor. A partial explanation is probably to be found in the raising of the standard; but the premature promotion of boys whose studies have been interrupted, a degree of overcrowding in the schools, and imperfect qualifications in the teaching staff, all tend to the same result. Measures have been taken to remedy these evils. The Jubbulpore Training Institution has been elevated into a Training College with a well-paid staff, Science teachers are to be specially trained, and the Government of India has been asked to sanction the raising of the scale of pay of masters, so as to enlarge the field for recruitment. The School Leaving Certificate Examination was held for the first time, but its permanent form has not been altogether settled. A continued substantial increase in the number of pupils in secondary schools, and the readiness with which money was subscribed for the erection of buildings for them, plainly revealed a strong demand for such education. **Secondary education.**

185. Primary Schools numbered 3,320, with 239,526 scholars, as against 3,179 and 222,756 last year. The great majority of the schools in the Central Provinces are provided with buildings, though the accommodation is often insufficient, but in Berar less than one-half have appropriate buildings. For the time want of funds prevents the establishment of additional schools in the Central Provinces. In Berar a small surplus is being used to encourage the opening of private schools by grants-in-aid. In one district feeder schools, containing only infant classes and first standards, have been established at private expense in villages situated just too far from a Primary School to admit of the attendance of small children. The education of the lowest castes advances slowly, but it is not clear whether the chief restraining cause is their own apathy or the hostility of the higher castes. Certain Brahman gentlemen in Berar have established a few schools for Mahars. The history of the Bastar rising presents a warning against an unduly forward policy amongst primitive people, as schoolmasters, like all other officials, are able to abuse their position. **Primary education.**

186. The chief change in regard to technical and special education was that 3 scholarships in mining were established, tenable at the Sibpur College. Considerable progress in regard to instruction in engineering and also to the training of teachers will probably soon be reported. Young men awarded State Technical Scholarships for study in Europe appear to make good use of their time. **Technical education.**

187. The number of girls' schools for Indians rose from 303 to 320, and that of their scholars from 16,576 to 17,526. There is undoubtedly a growing disposition to recognize the value of female education, but social customs incompatible with the attendance of girls at school after a very early age, exert a very strong hostile influence, with the result that only a very small proportion of the children complete even the primary course. Lack of trained teachers is a serious defect in this as in other branches of education: in the Mahratta country it is difficult to secure recruits from the Normal School; but in he Hin l dis the Jubbulpore Normal School and two Mission Training Institutions are turning out a steadily increasing number of mistresses. Grant-in-aid rules to facilitate the opening of new girls' schools in villages where a real demand exists were sanctioned. **Female education.**

European schools.

188. European schools numbered 36, with 1,381 scholars. These schools suffer from inadequate funds and, consequently, from imperfectly trained teachers. Something has been done to improve the masters' position by means of special grants, but the difficulty has been by no means removed. A large legacy, now being divided, and an endowment fund of Rs. 40,000 raised by subscription for the Bishop Cotton School at Nagpur, will also be of some assistance.

Muhammadan education.

189. Muhammadans have shown considerable enthusiasm for the education of their own community. In response, a Muhammadan High School was opened during the year at Amraoti; the Urdu Class in the Normal School there is to be converted into a separate school, and an Urdu Class will be attached to the Normal School to be established at Khandwa.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS — 3—LITERATURE AND THE PRESS

[Part VII of the Statistics of British India.]

Publications.

190. During the year under review 115 books were published as against 122 in the previous year. Of these 13 were in English, 42 in Marathi, 41 in Hindi, 6 in Sanskrit, 7 in Urdu, 1 in Gujarati, 1 in Marwari, 2 in English-Hindi, 1 in Sanskrit-Hindi, and 1 in Hindi-Marathi. There were 35 religious works, 12 Poetical, 6 Mathematical and Scientific, 11 Geographical, 3 Legal, and 4 Dramatic, while the rest dealt with miscellaneous subjects.

The Vernacular Press.

191. The newspapers and periodicals published in the Central Provinces and Berar during the year numbered 29. None of these, except the *Desha Sewak*, an extremist paper of the Poona *Kesari* type, and the *Marwari*, a Hindi paper dealing chiefly with commercial and industrial subjects and with matters connected with the Marwari community, had a circulation above 1,000 copies per issue.

Printing Presses.

192. There are in all 64 Printing Presses in the Provinces, 38 in the Central Provinces and 26 in Berar.

LITERARY SOCIETIES — 4—LITERARY SOCIETIES

193. During part of the year under report there were 68 Scientific and Literary Societies in the Provinces, but two of them ceased to exist almost as soon as established, so that the final number is the same as last year. Most were subscription libraries and depended chiefly for support on subscriptions from members. In the case of 19, however, this income was supplemented by grants from Government and Municipal funds.

ARTS AND SCIENCES — 5—ARTS AND SCIENCES

194. The Nagpur Museum attracted 25,000 visitors during the year. The Industrial Section was re-arranged, leaving only the Natural History Section to be improved. A satisfactory arrangement was made for the care and upkeep of the building. To facilitate management the Museum Fund was amalgamated with the Public Rooms Fund. The Public Rooms are required for entertainments and the like, but could else be usefully employed for the purposes of the Museum. The Raipur Museum has a balance of Rs. 2,700 and may be able to increase its sphere of usefulness. In the weaving school attached 30 persons were trained in the use of the fly-shuttle. The Victoria Technical Institute Museum in Nagpur suffers from defective accommodation, but more room will soon be available in the building. Additions were made to the collection of economic products which it contains.

CHAPTER VIII

ARCHÆOLOGY

[For further information see Archæological Survey of India (New Series), Volume XIX.]

MINOR DEPARTMENTS

ARCHÆOLOGY

195. A sum of Rs. 274 was spent on collecting fallen carved work at the Markunda temple in the Chanda District. Six scattered tombs of officers and soldiers who fell in the siege of Chanda City were repaired and provided with iron fencing at a cost of Rs. 942. Small works at Narnala Fort cost Rs. 320; and three old cannon lying near the Akot gateway there were mounted on stone platforms at a cost of Rs. 306. A sum of Rs. 268 was spent on certain repairs to the old temple inside the ruined fort at Lanji in the Balaghat District. Rs. 12,000 were also expended on the preservation and repairs of the Jama Masjid and other buildings at and near Burhanpur in the Nimar District, Shiva's temple at Deo Balode, the old Jain temple at Arang in the Raipur District, the Madadeo temple at Pali, and the two Hindu temples at Janjgir in the Bilaspur District.

CHAPTER IX

MISCELLANEOUS

1—ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION

ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION.

Ecclesiastical.

196. The diocese of Nagpur was formed in the year 1903, and includes the whole of the Central Provinces, Berar, Central India, Ajmere-Merwara, and all stations in Rajputana, except Mount Abu. There were no changes during the year.

2—STATIONERY

STATIONERY.

197. The value of stationery consumed in Offices and Courts has decreased from Rs. 1,74,224 in 1908-09 to Rs. 97,905 in 1909-10, or by 43 per cent. In the case of the indents complied with in February 1910 a system was introduced by the Controller of Stationery by which all indenting officers were allowed a fixed allotment working out at about a 25 per cent reduction on their previous year's supplies, and were left to reduce their indents so as to come within this sum. This somewhat drastic measure, which was found to be necessary in view of excessive indents in past years, accounts for 25 per cent of the reduction. Increased scrutiny of indents and consumption, and due attention to economy, accounts for a portion of the remainder: while a not inconsiderable decrease was caused by a drop in the demand for typewriters.

The expenditure on country stationery, including carriage of forms, has also decreased from Rs. 47,266 in the preceding year to Rs. 26,714 during the year, this being presumably traceable to the general measures of economy indicated above.

The total value of stationery supplied to Printing Presses decreased from Rs. 1,43,760 in the previous year to Rs. 74,099 during the year under report. The decrease is due to a smaller supply of stationery having been obtained by the Secretariat Press from the Controller of Stationery in consequence of the existence of a large balance in hand from previous years, and to the abolition of the system under which the Jail Press printed copies of forms in excess of actual requirements and kept them in stock to meet future demands.

3—GENERAL—MISCELLANEOUS

GENERAL

Registration of rainfall.

198. There were in all 171 rain-gauges in these Provinces, of which 15 were observatories under the control of the Imperial Meteorological Department, 20 were maintained by the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department, 15 were in the Feudatory States, while the rest (121) were under the control of the Director of Land Records. A rain-gauge was established at Saoner, the head-quarters of the tahsil of the same name in the Nagpur District, while the gauges at Brahmapuri in the Chanda District and Akot in the Akola District were, with the concurrence of the Director-General of Observatories, removed to more suitable sites. All except nine of the rain-gauges were inspected during the year, and all defects brought to light were remedied.

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